THE HINDOO PATRIOT

With which is incorporated the Indian Field.

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Summary of News.

Monday, 7th December.

PREPARATIONS are being made to try the rain-compelling experiments in Hyderabad, but they will be postponed until the atmospheric conditions become more favorable.

THE following communication has been addressed by the Bombay Government to the Coroner's Jurors in the Rajabai Tower case, who petitioned for compensation for the time they had to devote to the investigation:—"The undersigned is directed to acknowledge the receipt of a petition, dated 19th ultimo, from eight of the jurors employed at the Rajabai Tower Inquest, requesting a re-consideration of the orders of Government on their letter to the Coroner, dated the 3rd June last, and has directed to inform the petititioners that their petition is under the consideration of Government, and will be replied to in due course."

WE read in the *Amrita Bazaar Patrika*:—"A respectable old Brahmin came to us the other day and complained that the lives of the inhabitants of the village of Kadihati are in a state of constant insecurity. Kadihati is only a mile off the Barrackpore (Dum Dum?) parade ground, where every morning soldiers practise at shooting and so every villager runs the risk of being shot. As a matter of fact, within the last five or six months, at least half a dozen accidents have occurred, of which one ended fatally. The unfortunate man was a tenant of Babu Kalidhone Mukherjee of Kadihati. * * * The Magistrate, Lt.-Col. Sterndale, made a report on the subject, and the Bengal Government referred it to the India Government. The Government of India, it is said, has consulted [illegible] military authorities on the subject; and they are of opinion, we are told, that the whole village should be purchased and included into the parade ground. We do not know how far this statement is true; but whatever course the Government might deem proper to take it ought to be adopted at once; for the shooting exercise continues as usual, and the villagers are thus in danger of losing their limbs and lives everyday."

AMONGST fish, Dr. Richardson finds no deaths from old age, and he does not believe they have any term to their lives, save when they fall a prey to one another or to parasitic disease. Carp, pike, and other varieties of fish that have been isolated and watched are still living at enormous ages. As long as they live they increase in size.

THE Chamber of Deputies at Rome has adopted, by a large majority, a motion expressing confidence in the Government in its Clerical policy.

THE official returns of exports from the United Kingdom up to the end of November show a decrease in imports of eleven millions, as compared with the same period last year.

FOR many weeks past there has been a serious strike of London carpenters. The dispute has been referred to arbitration with the result that nearly every point has been decided against the men. The arbitrator refused to increase their pay, though advising more liberal treatment in the matter of overtime. He declined to recommend the abolition of subletting and piece work. The result is that the workmen are more enraged than ever against their employers.

IT may not be generally known, says a contemporary, that a curious collection of coins of considerable antiquarian value is to be found at the Calcutta Mint. The coins are not for exhibition, but for sale. Their presence in Calcutta is accounted for by the law of Treasure Trove, under which all finds of hidden wealth come into the hands of the State. Those who are curious in such things can obtain goldmohurs of the reign of Sultan Alaud-din-Mahomed Shah, about 1300 A. D.; rupees coined by Mahomed Shah, by Shah Jehan, the builder of the Taj Mahal, and Aurangzeb, together with old copper pieces innumerable. Numismatists on the look-out for specimens doubtless know all about such matters; but there are many others who might be glad to indulge a moderate taste for the genuinely curious. In this instance, the indulgence is easy and inexpensive.

Tuesday, 8th December.

INFLUENZA is very bad in Scotland and Cornwall. It is proving a terrible scourge at Bourdeaux and St. Petersburg, and is spreading generally on the Continent So far in England it is comparatively mild in its attack.

THE official liquidator of the Panama Canal Company declares that the completion of the canal is impossible unless Government assist. He asserts that the American Government is watching for a favourable opportunity of controlling the canal.

THE first edition of Mrs. Grimwood's narrative is exhausted. The India Office applied to see advance proofs, fearing, it is alleged, the unpleasant disclosures, but the request was refused.

IT will be remembered that in April 1890, a murderous attack was made on the Superintendent of the Rampur Police while on his way to Moradabad, and in connection therewith three men were arrested and placed on their trial before Mr. H. F. Evans, the Sessions Judge of Moradabad, who convicted and sentenced them each to seven years' rigorous imprisonment. Against this sentence an appeal was preferred to the High Court, under section 285, Criminal Procedure Code, the objection taken being that at the trial in question all the assessors were not present throughout the proceedings. The High Court, allowing the objection, directed a new trial according to the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code. The fresh trial was lately held by Mr. Mulock, the present Sessions Judge, and has resulted in the acquittal and discharge of two of the accused, *viz.*, Mahmood Khan and Abdul Majeed, while the third man, Chiddan, having been found guilty, has been sentenced to ten years' rigorous imprisonment. It is possible the Local Government may move the interference of the High Court against the later proceedings.

THE *Civil and Military Gazette* in an article on third-class railway fares in India refers to the Zone Traffic System in Hungary, and says:—"The case of India is analogous to that of Hungary, the populations in each being mostly poor agriculturalists; but India, we contend, possesses greater advantages for the development of railway traffic owing to the density of the population and the tendency of the people to travel to fairs, and bathing festivals. With regard to the comparative cost of travelling in the two countries we find that the third-class fares now in force in Hungary are little more than double those in India, and since the establishment of the reduced rates in the former country, the traffic has increased "so that where two passengers travelled in 1889 five are travelling now." It is not extravagant to predict that an equally advanced railway policy in India would be followed by even more remarkable results.

THE *Optician* confirms the story that a well-known firm of opticians in London manufactured spectacles to be worn by horses. The object is to promote "high stepping." Horse spectacles, we learn, are made of stiff leather, quite enclosing the eyes of the horse, and the glasses employed are deep concave and large in size. The effect is to give the ground in front of the horse the appearance of being raised; the animal, therefore, steps high, thinking he is going uphill, or has to step over an obstacle in front of him. If the system is persevered with when the animal is young the effect is said to be marvellous. Many horses it is alleged, could be materially improved by a visit of the optician, and it is recommended that the sight of all horses should be tested. This particularly applies to valuable hunters, which are found optically unfit for their work, when a little artificial assistance would make them as useful as ever. Apart from this consideration, many vices, it is believed, might be cured by means of eyeglasses. The cause of shying is, as a rule, short sight.

SIR James Lyall is suffering from a slight attack of fever, brought on, it is believed, by the dampness of the encampments near the flooded villages on the Agra Canal. Mr. Clarke, the Deputy Commissioner of Delhi, who is with the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, is also somewhat indisposed.

THE Maharaja of Durbhunga has contributed the handsome sum of twelve thousand rupees towards the re-excavation of the large tank in the vicinity of the temple at Deoghur. When renewed, the tank will be most useful to the pilgrims who resort to it for drinking and bathing purposes.

Wednesday, 9th December.

THE *Advocate*, of Lucknow, is responsible for the following:—"While we are glad that in a flooded district like Lucknow the Revenue officials did something to allay the sufferings of the poor, Colonel Horsford, the *Khudawand* of Sitapur, is acquitting himself in a quite different manner. The small river of the district, the *Sarjan* did greatest possible mischief to the inhabitants of the town, hundreds of the houses of poor people were washed away and much property lost. Now that the river has subsided to its ordinary limits, and the poor people have returned to their huts and *kucha* houses, and want to re-build their mud houses, the gallant Colonel would not allow them to do so. We ourselves visited the place last week and were shocked to see many families living in open air in these cold and shivery nights. Many complained that they were not allowed to build their mud walls. We were also told that Colonel Horsford in his capacity of the Chairman of the Municipality, has ordered that he won't give them permission for building kucha houses until they promise to have pucca foundation, not only this but he, in the name of the Municipality, wants to rob these poor men of some ground for Municipal lanes. The Colonel is very unpopular with all classes of people. His treatment of Indian gentlemen is not what it ought to be, but none can raise his voice against him, he being all powerful. The poor who are thus suffering are dumb and have no hope that their grievances will be heard by anybody. Will the Local Government enquire into the doings of Colonel Horsford?"

IT was announced some time ago that the Amir of Cabul had expressed his willingness to reduce the duties levied upon exports from India into Afghanistan, with a view to increasing the trade between the two countries. So far nothing has been done, and he has consequently been charged with having broken his word. But there are two sides to the question. It seems that when his Highness summoned the chief traders about him at Cabul, and discussed the matter he asked that in return for the reductions contemplated they should cease to use round-about routes to Central Asia and send all their goods direct to Afghanistan He in return undertook that the *ad valorem* rate should be justly calculated, one of the great grievances of the merchants being that his officials in the most arbitrary way fixed the values of the goods in transit. There can be no doubt that this was done with view to obtaining large revenue from the *kafilas*, and the natural result was that the trade was seriously checked. The Punjab traders, however, were loth to give the undertaking required, fearing, perhaps, that hereafter false complaints might be lodged against them of using the Persian route, in which case their representatives at Cabul would certainly be mulcted in heavy fines. The Amir has, therefore, moved no further in the matter, but this by no means implies that he is not prepared to carry out the fiscal reform which he promised. It was something to have induced him even to consider this subject of the taxation of trade, and it would be a pity if nothing were to come of his negotiations with the Indian traders. The latter may claim to know their own business best; but if they are really in earnest in desiring to bring about a revival of trade with Afghanistan and Central Asia, they might give the undertaking asked of them. They might take such precautions as would effectually prevent their being charged with double dealing, for the Amir is not easily hood-winked and he has a rough and ready way of making his orders respected when once he has issued them.

UNCIVILISED or poorly-educated men, according to Dr. Viery, who pass their lives among animals always acquire in a greater or less degree the natures of the creatures with which they are in continual association. It is thus that the ill-educated cowherd becomes heavy and rude with the ox, the swineherd gluttonous with the pig, the poacher hunter and gamekeeper bold and courageous with the dog, the shepherd simple with the sheep and we have all heard of the rough and blunt character developed in grooms and in other persons even of higher degree whose only species of work or hobby is the horse. In like manner the Arab is sober in temperament with his camel, the Laplander timid as the reindeer, the mountaineer active as the goat, the woolly African impudent as his ape and the Hindu sombre as his elephant because it is man's fate to take the nature of his animals when he cannot form their nature to his."

Thursday, 10th December.

THE Amir of Kabul has issued a proclamation forbidding lavish expenditure on funerals, basing his orders on the precepts of the Koran. His Highness quotes a verse from the Koran—"Verily the prodigals have been the brethren of devils"—and adds that if anyone does not place his faith in the clear injunctions of the Koran and the authentic Hadis, "he shall be turned out of the presence of God and shall deserve the fire of hell, from which may God protect us."

THE Inspector-General of Police in the Madras Presidency is making a personal investigation into the recent disturbances at Kurnool. The conduct of the ordinary police on the occasion, as we are given to understand, does not appear to have been all that it might have been.

WE are glad to see that the Madras Government has not only officially thanked the Collector of Cuddapah for the trouble he took in connection with the recent experiments in rain-making, but has determined that further experiments shall be carried out without delay under the direction of the Public Works Department at Bellary. An allotment of Rs. 2,000 has been made for the purpose.

A RESOLUTION has been published by the Government of India in the Finance Department regarding the leave and pension rules of the Uncovenanted Service. The Government are of opinion that these rules, as contained in the Civil Service regulations, are not open to the charge of ambiguity advanced by the Parliamentary Committee last year, though it is admitted they are, from the necessity of the case, elaborate and complicated. The Resolution states that, in view of the great differences which exist in the conditions of service of the many branches of public service, and in the circumstances of appointments of officers to different branches, and sometimes to the same branch, it is not possible to introduce one scheme of leave and pension rules applicable to all branches of the Civil Service. The Governor General in Council considers that the Civil Service regulations cannot be materially abbreviated or simplified, without the risk of causing ambiguity and a return to the former state of uncertainty which existed before the rules were codified. In order that the more important rules regarding leave and pension may be available in a shorter and more convenient form, a pamphlet containing the principal regulations in a condensed shape is being prepared and will be issued hereafter.

THE vacancies next year among the Assistant Superintendents, on Rs. 150 per mensem, in the Northern India Salt Revenue Department, will be filled up by competition for the first time. The examination of the selected candidates for the department will be held at Allahabad on the 9th January 1892 and following days, simultaneously with that prescribed for filliug up vacancies in the clerical establishment (Lower Division) of the Secretariat offices of the Government of India and attached offices. The number of appointments to be competed for is two.

THE *Daily News* says that the Liverpool mob, objecting to Mohamedan worship in that city, exhibits antipathy after the manner of mobs by howling, yelling, and pelting with mud and stones. The little building in Brougham Terrace, in which a few Moslem worshippers thereabout gather together for prayer and listen to sermons in Arabic and English, is hidden away in a garden. It does not seem that the congregation have ever done anything to give offence, yet for more than a month past they have been exposed to persecution of this sort. The ferment appears to be increasing. The appearance of the muezzin in the balcony to give the customary call to prayer was the signal for a great uproar from a crowd of some four hundred roughs, indulging in the usual oaths and execrations, and throwing of stones and filth, and several times the muezzin was struck. After he had retired the disturbers burst into the mosque and threw stones, one of which fell within a few inches of where the little son of Ahmed Quilliam Bey was kneeling at prayer. These annoyances continued during the service, and the congregation on leaving were pelted and struck. It seems strange, says the *Daily News*, that a great city like Liverpool can afford no better protection than this to these unoffending sojourners in its midst.

MR. Moore, District Judge of South Malabar, has been authorised by Government to enquire into, and report upon, the land-jobbing irregularities recently brought to light in Malabar.

SIAM has sent to Europe twenty-seven youths, all belonging to the Siamese aristocracy, to complete their education. Seven of these students will reside in Paris, ten in London, and ten in Berlin, where they will remain some years, and perfect themselves in European languages and literature.

Friday, 11th December.

SIR Roper Lethbridge, M. P., will probably visit India before the close of the Parliamentary recess, returning to his duties in the House of Commons shortly after the opening of Parliament in February. Sir Roper will probably visit the Districts that have suffered from scarcity, in view of possible discussions in England on the efficiency of the relief measures. He will also officially represent the Mysore Goldfields Railway Company, who propose to construct a line of railway to connect the Mysore Goldfields with the Singareni collieries.

A SUGGESTION has been made to establish Savings Banks in connection with schools and colleges. The practice obtains in European countries.

THE *Pioneer* writes:—"A few letters have appeared in the English papers from intending settlers, which represent Mashonaland to be anything but the Eldorado the first accounts made it out to be, and this view is corroborated by a private letter we have received from a roving correspondent in that quarter. The letter is dated the 8th November, and say that at that time miners were returning in numbers to Johannisberg, cursing the chance that had taken them to Mashonaland. On the other hand, reports from Bechuanaland, which has as yet been little exploited, are roseate, and the eyes of the disappointed miners are turning eagerly thitherwards."

IT is rumoured in certain quarters that Sir Mortimer Durand is not likely to remain much longer in the service. The cause of this is variously stated. His health was not very satisfactory some time ago, and that may have something to do with it.

AN invention has been made at Georgetown Observatory, district of Columbia, called the photochronograph. The instrument causes a star to record the time of its own transit across the meridan, thus eliminating the risk of personal errors.

THE visit of the Foreign Secretary to the Hazara Frontier is due to the natural desire of the Government of India to assure itself, that the proposed arrangements for securing the peace of the borderland below the Black Mountain are likely to prove sufficient The Commander-in-Chief represented that it would be inconvenient and expensive to maintain a brigade during the winter months on the hills which have been held by Brigadier-General Hammond's force since May; but at the same time he was prepared to keep troops on the spot, if the Punjab Government held that such a course was necessary for political reasons. Sir James Lyall, after considering the opinion expressed by Mr. Cunningham, Deputy Commissioner of Hazara, came to the conclusion that there was no need for any continued display of strength, as Hashim Ali's influence over the tribesmen had been destroyed. Sanction, therefore, was given to the raising of 200 border militia from among the clans that had been most friendly during the expedition, the men thus enlisted being placed in charge of the actual line of frontier. Sir Mortimer Durand will consult with General Lockhart as to how far the arrangement now in course of being carried out can be made permanent; and meanwhile the precaution will be taken of keeping one Punjab infantry regiment at Oghi, so that the borderland will not be left wholly unprotected.

BUDMASHES, disguised as fakirs, are again wandering about in the Punjab, pretending that they possess herbal secrets by which they can convert copper or silver into gold, eventually decamping with the copper and silver entrusted to them. The other day one of these sham fakirs came to a cloth merchant at Jhelum, and was kind enough to turn a copper pice into gold. Then the swindler got some eight hundred rupees' worth of jewellery from the man and promised to return him ten times its value in gold. For about two days and nights they watched the magic furnace together, but on the eclipse night the sham fakir went to the river to bathe in the sacred steam of Hydaspes and disappeared with the booty. The foolish cloth merchant has lost all his own jewellery as well as much of his neighbours.

MR. LANGDON Down, of the London Hospital, the largest surgical hospital in London, is coming out to Hyderabad to study the clinical aspects of the chloroform question.

THE new Indian Cantonment Code has passed through the press, and copies will forthwith be issued to Local Governments. Colonel Young, Assistant Quartermaster-General at Army Head quarters, who was on special duty for six months in connection with the revision of the Code, has striven to make it as practicable as possible, though it is necessarily of great length.

Saturday, 12th December.

MR. GOLLAN, the Superintendent of the Saharanpore Botanical Garden, is trying a very interesting experiment in sugar-cane plantation, and one which, if attended with successful results, will prove of enormous importance to persons interested in the sugar industry, namely, the propagation of sugar-cane from seed which has attracted considerable attention in the West Indies, and this probably has led the Agricultural Department of the North-West Provinces to take the matter seriously in hand.

WE learn that the Secretary of State has passed orders for the "removal" from the service of Captains Boileau and Butcher, of the Gurkhas, Lord Cross agreeing with the military court of inquiry that they were guilty of deserting the Manipur Residency on the occasion of the catastrophe that befell Mr. Quinton, Colonel Skene, Mr. Grimwood, and the other British officers in February last. Captains Boileau and Butcher are, however, to receive compassionate allowances, the former getting £200 per annum and the latter £90 a year.

THE Bombay Chamber of Commerce have received a letter from Sir James Fergusson in which he regrets he cannot hold out any prospect of the adoption of a penny letter post to India, it not being justifiable from a financial point of view, nor in accordance with a uniform tariff lately adopted. He points out that postcards have been reduced, and a reduction in newspapers &c., is in contemplation.

THEY had a St. Andrew's Dinner in Rangoon, at which Sir Alexander Mckenzie, Chief Commissioner of Burmah, presided and waxed eloquent in proposing the loyal toasts and the pious memory. Mr. Smeaton, who proposed "The land we live in," contrasted the present state of Burmah with the condition of things in the Upper Province four years since, when he had charge of the same toast at the Scotch dinner. Where all was then turmoil all was now quiet. The country was threatened with scarcity just now, but that was not an unmixed curse. The people had begun to see what they had never seen and known before: that the Government that ruled them also cared for them. He heard a Minister of the King of Burmah give expression to this feeling in Mandalay the other day. "Why" he said, "you are taking from us in taxation one-third more than the King ever did; but," he added, "if you take ten-thirds more it is worth the people's while to pay it to see the trouble you are taking to alleviate sufferings and to rescue the people in distress." Therefore he said this scarcity is not an unmixed curse, and it is in so far, a sign of progress. Another point he referred to was the amount the Government of India takes from the Burmah surplus under the provincial contract. He considered the province should get more of its surplus for its own purposes, and suggested that the scarcity afforded a good opportunity for pressing this claim,—a sentiment which was received with much applause.

THE Lahore paper insists on the necessity for measures to suppress touting In connection with the Punjab Courts:—"Why should not a correct statement of the tout's system of campaign be made out by, let us say, the Deputy Commissioner of Lahore, submitted to Government for the opinion of the Government Advocate in order to that officer stating whether an offence can be proved or not? If so, why should not a tout be brought up for trial and the Government Advocate be directed to prosecute him? If there is no offence under existing laws, the Legislature should be moved in order to legislate without delay; for there is no doubt that a state of things against the well-being of the people and a scandal to justice cannot always be allowed to exist. Supposing, however, that the tout does commit an offence under existing law, why should not a qualified police officer be deputed to look after him and run him in? We are convinced that a few cases successfully prosecuted and severely punished would at once have the effect of uprooting the system and removing the cry which now prevails against it. If it is thought that the suitor should learn to take care of himself, there is no doubt it will be found that he will gain his experience at such cost as to turn out more discontented than he is now. The subject is one calling for immediate attention, and has many more bearings than would at first sight appear."

THE natives at Lahore (the local paper states) appear to be just now peculiarly influenced by a form of superstition, known as *toona*. This consists of clandestinely laying the dead body of a child that has died a natural death in a mosque at night, or near the edge of a canal, instead of burying it in the graveyard. The idea is that by doing so the children that are born in the family after the one that died will live to an old age. Several dead bodies of infants laid about in this manner have recently been picked up by the police and buried at the expense of the Municipality after the usual *post mortem*.

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THE INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CULTIVATION OF SCIENCE.

(210, BOW-BAZAR STREET.)

(SESSION 1891-92.)

LECTURE by Babu Ram Chandra Datta, F. C. S., on *Monday* the 14*th December*, at 4-15 P. M.

Subject: Alcoholic Derivatives of Hydrocyanic Acid.

LECTURE by Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar, on *Tuesday*, the 15*th Inst.* at 7 P. M.

Subject: Faraday's Explication of Arago's Rotation's Ruhmkorff's Coil; Electric Discharges in Vacua.

LECTURE by Babu Ram Chandra Datta, F. C. S., on *Wednesday*, the 16*th Inst.*, at 4-15 P. M.

Subject: Fulminates.

LECTURE by Babu Ram Chandra Datta, F. C. S., on *Thursday* the 17*th Inst.*, at 4-15 P. M.

Subject: Nitrogen bases of the Alcohols Radicles or Ammonia Derivatives.

LECTURE by Babu Ram Chundra Datta, F. C. S., on *Friday* the 18*th Inst.*, at 4 15 P. M.

Subject: Phosphorous Arsenic &c Compound of the Alcohol Radicles.

LECTURE by Babu Ram Chandra Datta, F. C. S., on *Saturday*, the 19*th Inst.*, at 4 P. M.

Subject: Phosphorous, Arsenic &c Compounds of the Alcohol Radicles.—(Continued.)

MAHENDRA LAL SIRKAR M. D.,

December 12th, 1891. *Honorary Secretary.*

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1891.

THE BEHAR CADASTRAL SURVEY.

A LARGE and influential meeting was held at the Rooms of the British Indian Association, on Saturday last, to consider the propriety of submitting a Representation to Government in regard to the Cadastral Survey in Behar recently ordered by the Government of Bengal. Almost all the leading zemindars of Bengal and Behar, resident in Calcutta, were present at the meeting. The proceedings were opened by Maharaja Bahadur Sir Jotendro Mohun Tagore proposing that His Highness the Maharaja of Darbhanga should take the chair. The Maharaja Bahadur regretted that owing to ill-health he was not able to take a more active part in the proceedings, but he said that the objects of the meeting had his full sympathy.

Maharaja Bahadur Sir Narendra Krishna, in a few well-chosen words, moved the first Resolution. The Resolution said that the proposed Survey would prove disastrous to both landlords and tenants, and that the only effect which the Survey operations would produce would be a serious disturbance of the peaceful relations which exist between the landed classes at present. We wish the Resolution had added that the measure is unnecessary and uncalled for, and is calculated to encumber both zemindars and ryots with expenditure which they are generally incapable to bear without serious hardship to themselves. These points were well brought out in the excellent speech which Rai Shib Chander Banerji Bahadur, a landholder of Behar, delivered in supporting the Resolution. The Rai Bahadur adduced cogent reasons why the Survey operations should not be undertaken. He observed that he could point out six strong grounds for not undertaking the measure, and then dwelt exhaustively on those grounds, and conclusively showed that the measure would prove disastrous to the province. He showed (1) that the measure was unnecessary and uncalled for; (2) that it would lead to expensive litigation; (3) that it was ruinously expensive; (4) that there were many difficulties attending it; (5) that the measure would disturb the peaceful relations which exist between the landlords and ryots in Behar; and (6) that it was inopportune to start the measure now.

Under the first head he quoted Secs. 101, 102, 56, and 158 of the Bengal Tenancy Act and showed that none of the conditions mentioned in Sec. 101 exists in the present case. He said almost all the material information to be collected by the survey and settlement, is available in the records of the zemindars. Referring to Sec. 56, he said that the issue of rent receipts in the form prescribed in Sec. II. of the Act had made many points connected with rents and tenures clear. Referring to Sec. 108 he said that the section provided a remedy for those cases in which a ryot wanted survey and settlement of his *jote*. He described the subordinate machinery employed to carry on the survey and settlement of lands as generally corrupt. Under the second head, he said that the proposed measure would be attended with an increase of litigation unprecedented in its character. In the thinly-inhabited district of Purneah filled with jungle and water, there were 2,400 cases in Court, and in Bhagulpur, too, the number of cases was very large. As to the third point he said that the Government estimate of expenses at 8 annas per acre was too low, and that about two crores of rupees would be required to have a survey and settlement besides the annual expenses required to maintain and preserve the records.

Under the head of difficulties attending the measure, he quoted the opinions of Mr. John Beames, Mr. Barlow, Mr. Wilson Lord Ulick Browne, Mr. Oldham the Commissioner of the Chittagong Divsion, and of Mr. Cotton, the officiating Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal. He very forcibly pointed out that the opinions of these high officers of Government supported by the opinions of the Maharajas, Rajas and the leading zemindars who were present at the meeting, ought certainly to outweigh the opinions of a few officers of Government who recommend the measure. Then he said that the measure would surely lead to ill-feeling between zemindars and tenants which would be injurious to the interests of both.

Lastly, the speaker said that as there was scarcity, if not actual famine, in Behar, this was certainly not a proper time for starting the measure. He observed that the enormous expense to which the zemindars would be put would, considering their present indebtedness, lead ultimately to their ruin and so with the case of ryots. He assured the meeting, in the conclusion of his address, that if all the matters were properly represented to Government, it would have no hesitation in postponing the measure for some years if it is not withdrawn altogether.

The Rai Bahadur's speech made a strong impression upon the audience. We reproduce it *in extenso* in another column.

The second Resolution was moved by Maharaja Durga Charan Law, C. I. E., in a neat and effective speech. It was marked by good sense throughout. The Maharaja very well said that if any good could be expected from the proposed measure the landholders instead of opposing would have welcomed it. They surely could not be so blind as not to see their own advantage. When the chief parties to the measure, namely Zemindars and ryots, are opposed to the measure, we may rest assured that it is fraught with disastrous consequences. The Maharaja drew attention particularly to the Survey proceedings which have already been undertaken in Orissa. The ryots, he said, are in a miserable condition, owing to the havoc which has been caused in Orissa by the late cyclone. This surely is not the time when a revolutionary and ruinous measure like this should be introduced into the province. Raja Peary Mohan Mukerji in seconding the Resolution clearly pointed out the incalculable mischief that would result from the measure. Raja Peary Mohun could speak authoritatively on the question. He took a leading part in the Tenancy Bill discussions, and studied the question thoroughly in all its bearings. He is a large zemindar himself, and knows very well how such a measure as this vitally affects the well-being of both landlords and tenants. His opinion should carry very great weight. The Raja said:—"What appears to me the most telling argument against the measure is that after all this expenditure and trouble has been undergone, the result will be far from adequate to the sacrifice which we are required to make. A complete record of the respective rights and delegations of landholders and ryots in respect of all the tenures and holdings in a district is no doubt a very desirable thing, but those acquainted with our rural economy should at once see that such a record would be practically valuless in this country unless it is annually corrected. The changes which are constantly occuring in the ownership and occupancy of land by transfers, relinquishments, inheritance, and by decrees of Courts are enormous. You will have some idea of the extent of these changes if you examine the figures regarding any one of these causes. You will find that in a single year, 1889-90, the number of sales and exchanges registered in these Provinces amounted to 206,703, and the number of permanent leases granted amounted to 76,390. You will see, therefore, that taking into account all the causes which contribute to changes of ownership and occupation of land, and to the creation of new rights, the record of rights, to be at all useful, would require correction every year in several hundreds of thousands different particulars. I think all these facts and arguments should be respectfully submitted to Government and that his Honor the Lieutenant-Governor should be prayed to reconsider the whole question.

"It was originally proposed to appoint a large and influential Committee of noblemen and gentlemen to prepare a respectful Memorial for submission to Government. But the Behar landholders present strongly urged that the Committee of the British Indian Association should be requested to draw it up and submit to Government. The Resolution was accordingly altered, in deference to the views of the Behar landholders.

THE VICEROY'S SPEECH AT THE ST. ANDREW'S DINNER.

WE briefly noticed in our last issue the Viceroy's speech at the last St. Andrew's Dinner; but the subject requires a more extended consideration. Although Lord Lansdowne enunciated no new policy and made no "epoch-making" speech, still he touched on almost all the important questions of the day in an interesting manner. Referring to his recent tour in Kashmir and in Central India, the Viceroy clearly explained the policy of the Government of India towards the Feudatory States. His Excellency observed:—"I dwell upon these facts, because I regard it as a matter of first rate importance that the States in subordinate alliance with Her Majesty shall be governed in such a manner that we need have no scruple in preserving for them the measure of independence which they at present enjoy. Not only would it be an act of injustice to deprive them of the privileges of self-government to which they are entitled, but it would, I am convinced, be a distinct misfortune, to the Empire if these interesting remnants of indigenous rule were to be entirely effaced. They may not all of them be governed entirely in accordance with our ideas of good government, but it is a question whether in spite of this, they do not, from their point of view, prefer to remain under their own ruler, even if they are denied some of the administrative luxuries which we provide for the people of British India. Be this as it may, the territory directly under the Government of India is already so large, and our tendency to govern in accordance with uniform principles and according to stereotyped methods of administration is so strong that from our point of view, I should regard with unfeigned regret any event which might force us to assume responsibility for any part of the large areas at present governed by Indian Chiefs and Rulers."

These observations, coming as they do from a Viceroy who, at the very commencement of his Indian career, deprived the Maharaja of Kashmir of all powers and made the British Resident the virtual ruler of the State, possess a peculiar interest and value. It is an article of the average Anglo-Indian official's political screed that all Asiatic people are only too anxious to come under British rule and enjoy its inestimable blessings. But this is a great mistake. The Indian bureaucrat cannot be made

to understand that the loose slippers of an Oriental suit him better than the tight boots of English; and that his flowing robe and his turban become him better than the heavy and close-fitting clothes and the chimney pot of the European. An intelligent Indian once told an English friend of his, "your rule is like your iron; it is very hard!" The perfect justice of this remark will be recognised by all right-minded Englishmen who have sympathy with the thoughts and feelings, wishes and wants, opinions and prejudices of their Indian fellow-subjects. It cannot be too carefully borne in mind that the great art of governing an Oriental people with success is to let them alone as much as possible. Even in the case of Native States which are misgoverned, the people prefer to remain under their own rulers. It is a great thing that Lord Lansdowne's recent tour in Kashmir and in Central India has convinced him of this. His Lordship remarked: "It is instructive both for the Natives of this country and for Europeans that the two kinds of Government should be in force side by side and in the full view of public opinion. We are all of us fond of dwelling upon the necessity of decentralizing our administration, and considering all the circumstances of India, I doubt whether there is any form of decentralization more useful than that which leaves the domestic affairs of a large portion of the country to the management of its own people." This is certainly the language of genuine statesmanship.

Lord Lansdowne alluded to the revelations of the last census and said:—"They do indeed afford food for reflection, some of it not of an altogether comfortable kind. We may perhaps draw two conclusions from them. The marvellous increase of the population, upon the one hand, proves to demonstration the success with which the system of Government has combated those agencies which in former days imposed some check upon the multiplication of the people of India. The second conclusion which we shall probably draw, is that it becomes more and more the duty of the Government of India to seek for some means of relieving the pressure of the population upon the means of subsistence by bringing new tracts under cultivation either by irrigation or by means of improving the means of access to them, and by encouraging the occupants of the most densely inhabited districts to transfer themselves to those which are at present but sparsely occupied. These important problems are, I am able to assure you, engaging our earnest attention." It would no doubt be very desirable to promote emigration from the congested districts to thinly-peopled tracts in Assam, Burma and the Central Provinces. But we must not forget that all the attempts which have hitherto been made in this direction have proved unsuccessful. This fact should be carefully borne in mind in dealing with the population in India. This important problem, as we have always maintained, can never be satisfactorily solved unless the Government see the wisdom of extending the boon of a permanent settlement to those provinces which do not now enjoy it.

In the concluding portion of his speech the Viceroy made some very sensible remarks on the Opium question. His Excellency said:—"Whether a moderate use of the drug is worse than a moderate use of the national beverage, of which the President has spoken so affectionately, I will not now enquire, but of this I am persuaded that, if we were to be deprived, by a stroke of the pen, of our opium revenue to-morrow, the consumption of the drug would continue in spite of us, and that it is as much beyond our power to put an end to the use of opium in China and in India as it would, I believe, be beyond the power of the friends of temperance in England to put an absolute stop to the consumption of intoxicating liquors in that country." This is quite true. The surrender of the opium revenue in deference to the views of sentimental philanthropists will land India in bankruptcy without reducing the consumption of the noxious drug by one single ounce.

THE LAND INDEBTEDNESS COMMISSION.—I

THE Government of India, as our readers know, have appointed a Commission to enquire into the working of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act of 1879. This measure, we need hardly say, has been adopted in consequence of the strong representations which have for some time past been made by the Punjab Government to the Supreme Government regarding the transfer of land from the hands of its original proprietors into those of money-lenders. This state of things is regarded by the average Anglo-Indian official as a source of political danger, and he, therefore, naturally desires to have it stopped altogether. The idea of confiscating the property of the money-lenders for the benefit of the landholding classes originated with Mr. (afterwards Sir Theodore) Hope, who carried through the Viceroy's Legislative Council the well-known measure called the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act of 1879. That measure has now been in operation for twelve years in the districts of Poona, Satara, Sholapur and Ahmednagar.

The Act, it may be remembered, was the outcome of the agrarian riots which occurred in the Deccan in 1875. A Commission was appointed to enquire into the causes of the riots. In their report the Commissioners reviewed the history, from the commencement of British rule, of the relations between the Mahratta kunbi cultivators in the Deccan and the money-lenders who are settled among them. The first period of British rule, it is notorious, was marked in the Deccan, as in other parts of India, by excessive revenue assessments. These were based on the accounts of the previous Administration, which represented the maximum collections possible in the most favourable seasons rather than the revenue which might be expected to be realised in average years. Under Mahratta rule the land revenue demand was collected in kind. In good years the cultivators were submitted to heavy demands, which they had no very great difficulty in meeting; but in bad seasons they were leniently treated. This system did not commend itself to the British rulers of the Deccan. They introduced a system of fixed demands payable in cash, and the assessments imposed were the maximum collections possible in the most favourable seasons. These assessments were rigorously exacted in cash, in good and bad years alike. After nearly twenty years of over-assessment, the survey settlement was introduced in 1837, which resulted at first in a great extension of cultivation. But enquiries into the condition of the people instituted in 1843 and 1852 showed that, notwithstanding the extension of cultivation there had been a great increase in the burden of debt, and that the Usury law of 1827 had proved completely ineffectual in securing its object. The law, as was to be expected, was evaded by the money-lenders by the deduction of discount from the consideration given to the debtor. As a matter of fact, the introduction of the Usury law placed the debtor in a worse position than before. He was compelled to acknowledge receipt of a consideration which had not actually passed. The increased credit which the cultivator acquired with proprietary right in his holding naturally resulted in the increase of private sales and mortgages to the money-lender, and the sale of land in execution of decrees became frequent when the Civil Procedure Code of 1859 was passed.

The first term of settlement which, as we have said above, began in 1837, expired ten years after the passing of the new Civil Procedure Code and a revision of assessment was taken in hand. The new assessments were introduced in the Poona district between 1869 and 1872, and they resulted in an enhancement of more than 54 per cent. The enquiries of the Commission showed that about one-third of the occupants of Government land were embarrassed with debt, that their debts averaged about eighteen times their assessment, and that nearly two-thirds of the debt was secured by mortgage of the land. The Commissioners examined twelve villages as a test area in the Ahmednagar district and found that about one-eighth of the occupancies had been transferred to the money-lenders, besides those of which they had become the virtual owners by means of the mortgage they held, and the debt was nearly double the capital value of the ryot's land to an ordinary purchaser. It was also found that all transactions, even the most trivial, were reduced to the form of written contracts.

The Commissioners then proceeded to examine those incidents in the dealings of the ryot and money-leader which might be supposed to contribute to produce the feelings of bitter hostility between the two classes which culminated in the disturbances of 1875, and to consider whether they were removable or remediable. They arranged these incidents under the heads of Usury *ex parte* decrees, excessive powers of realising debts, loss of land by private sales, the Limitation Law, frauds, and the action of the Civil Courts. In regard to usury, they observed that in the evidence produced before them they were unable to come to any definite conclusion as to the fairness or unfairness of the rates of interest charged by the money-lenders, as the accounts were vague and for the most part unsatisfactory in regard to the value of the property and even the amount of debt and interest and the security offered. The rate of interest, they truly pointed out, is determined rather by the risk of the aggregate of transactions than by that of individual cases. The Commissioners recorded their opinion that, in view of the numerous and simple means which existed of evading a usury law, it would be impossible to reduce rates of interest by legislation. They did not look favourably on a proposal made by Sir Raymond West that discretion should be given to Courts to reduce interest. They rightly held that diversity of practice in the use of this discretion would be almost inevitable, at least until a body of precedents had been created which should remove the subject from the sphere of discretion to that of law. Another means which was suggested for reducing the rate of interest was the establishment of agricultural banks by Government; but even this suggestion did not commend itself to the approval of the Commissioners.

In regard to *ex parte* decrees, the Commissioners found that they were unusually numerous in the Bombay Presidency generally as compared with other provinces of India, and specially so in the Deccan districts. The ratio of uncontested suits in Bombay in 1873-74 was, indeed, 86 per cent. It was also shown that the proportion of *ex parte* decrees was highest in those districts where the suits for debt were most numerous, and lowest where land suits were most common. The ignorance and poverty of the debtor, his fear of the creditor and desire to keep on good terms with him, and his inability to produce evidence were assigned as reasons why suits to which a defence might be made were uncontested. But the Commissioners were of opinion that the excessive power given by the law to the creditor in realising his debt was the main cause of the bitter enmity which existed between the money-lender and the ryot in the Deccan. They pointed out that the power of imprisonment and the unlimited discretion of executing a decree against all the debtor's property under the Code of 1859, were far in excess of the means of recovery given to the creditor by the law in any other civilized country. As regards the liability of the debtor's land to sale in execution of a decree, the Commissioners were clearly of opinion that the substitution of the Marwari money-lender for the Kunbi peasant proprietor was a great evil; but they did not recommend either the total exemption of land from liability or the substitution of temporary transfer to the creditor for sale. The first course, they rightly held, would deprive the borrower of the security which brought him credit on the most favourable terms, and thus cause him to pay the highest possible price for the accommodation he could not do without; and the second course would compel him either to give the land as security or to pay a higher rate of interest on a unsecured loan. As regards loss of land by private sale, the Com-

missioners rejected Sir Raymond West's proposal that Government should pronounce all land held from it inalienable except with its consent, or else subject on alienation to re-assessment at a rack-rent.

In discussing the effect, upon the debtor, of the change in the Law of Limitation, made by Act. XIV of 1859, the Commissioners came to the conclusion that the reduction of the period of limitation had been the cause of considerable hardship to the debtor. They did not, however, recommend a return to the old period, because it was of importance to keep the general limitation law free from frequent change. As regards frauds by creditors, the Commissioners found that the fraudulent practices universally charged upon the money-lenders were: omitting to give credit for payments made by the debtor, refusing, to show an account, obtaining bonds in satisfaction of decrees and then enforcing the latter, retaining and suing upon old bonds which had been cancelled by latter ones. In dealing with those grievances which resulted from the action of the Courts, the Commissioners found that the Courts were too few and had too much work to get through for them to give that attention to their cases which they required, and that there was reason to believe that the pay of the judges (Rs. 200 a month) was insufficient to attract competent men. They also pointed to the excessive burden of costs, and the high surplus of receipts shown to the credit of the Courts in the Bombay Presidency and suggested a reduction in the Court charges.

As we have already exceeded the limits assigned to a single article, we will return to the subject in an early issue.

THE EUROPEAN FRONTIER IN ASIA.

THE affairs of the Pamirs have been occupying much of the attention of writers in the Press; and doubtless when Parliament meets we shall hear still more about this matter. Indeed from the way in which it is treated by the *Times*, we are confronted with the most serious event that has happened in the course of English history; for it appears that England in consequence of this move- ment of Russia is no longer the sea-girt island—"the swan upon the waters" as Shakespeare describes her. The time has arrived when "there is a powerful nation on the border of an integral part of the British dominion." In these words, says the *Times*, the whole question of the Pamirs is summed up. England has been forced into actual contact with the armed camp of Europe, and has to defend a land frontier much longer than that which separates Germany from France. "The real European frontier is now in the heart of Asia;" and England is one of the countries upon that frontier by virtue of her Indian Empire.

We need not follow the writer into his description of the events that have been taking place by which Russia and England and China meet face to face in the Pamirs. The facts are sufficiently well known. But it may be remarked, b fo e we proceed to give the writer's ideas of the new responsibilities which have thus been thrown upon England and India, that the article is founded upon a supposition which a few days ago the same writer seemed to consider an impossible one, *viz*, that a passage through the Pamirs lay open for Russia to India. Upon this point there have been many different opinions. The *Times* itself had on a previous occasion joined with those who have minimized the value of the advance of Russia on the Pamirs in securing a fresh point for an invasion of India. Now by its present writer it seems to have adopted the views of those who have seen in the Russian advances the first steps upon a route not only practicable but convenient.

Upon this supposition then the writer deals with the matter and considers the question of what England's duty is in this altered condition of things, and what responsibilities it throws on England and India. If disaster is to be avoided, we are told that changes corresponding to the altered position of England as what may be described by the phrase—"a European Power with a frontier in Asia"—must be introduced into the national armament. The English army has certainly hitherto played the second part to the navy. As the writer says "the popular British imagination is still dominated by the great sea victories of a century ago and the navy rather than the army is to the ordinary Englishman the true defence of the nation." But the Pamirs have altered all that. "With the necessity of holding along land frontier the army has attained an importance such as it never formerly possessed in time of peace." And yet of late there have been complaints about its inefficiency. The writer puts it courteously that the anxiety of the most competent experts in regard to the condition of the army and its fitness for the work which assuredly lies before it, is a sign of awakening to the new responsibilities imposed on the nation. If this means that the Pamirs have had much to do with this spirit of criticism which has been so rife we hardly think that that is the case. There has been plenty of reasons for the severe things that have been said about army, without turning the island into a continent with a land frontier to account for it. And indeed the writer asks sorrowfully the question—'Has there ever been any recognition of the fact that the British Empire has now to hold a great land frontier or any approach to preparation for the task?' He omits to state what the necessary changes must be. True, it is urged, that more money must be spent and a correspondent is quoted as saying that "no sum is now grudged by the nation to the fighting services if it is clearly shown to be required and if there is reasonable probability that it will not be wasted." So also we are told that a good deal of the "show side" of the army must be put an end to and serious work undertaken, and that divided responsibility in the higher control of the army has become perilous to England in a degree unknown before. This may be all true; and no doubt it is, but the same might have been said with equal truth, and has been said, any time during the last twenty years. Many military men are hankering after the introduction of compulsory military service into the army; and that would really seem the suppressed thought which underlies the writer's remarks upon the new land frontier of England. The Pamirs will no doubt furnish a text for a good many sermons on the salvation to be found in conscription and the *Times* will have earned the gratitude of the military for furnishing them with a new argument.

Whatever the writer may be thinking on this matter, he at any-rate has no hesitation in saying that England ought to do something which she has not done yet and that she seems as if she had not yet awakened to the consciousness that anything needed to be done on her part at all commensurate to the altered circumstances and to meet the inevitable results of an inevitable encounter upon the "Roof of the World" over which, to use his own phrase, picturesque Russia China and England have for some time peering at one another.

But in India the case is different, the event has been clearly foreseen and amply provided for. It has reorganized and strengthened its armament, fortified its frontier, and created an effective influence in the intervening territories and States. "In spite of the severe financial strain caused by the fall of the rupee Lord Dufferin deliberately entered on, and his successor has firmly carried out, schemes of military expenditure unprecedented in the history of India during a time of peace." Indians certainly need not be told that they are pain fully aware of it; and be is as little necessary to remark that the fact, so complacently alluded to here, is one which marks a decided difference of opinion between the Government and the people. Russia coming against India by the North-West has always been the all-sufficient argument in favour of heavy military expenditure, ; in future we must suppose it will be Russia coming or threatening to come through the Pamirs. First get up your military scare and then you may get as much money as you like is a good old maxim acted on in more places than in India to be sure.

Passing by this point, however, it is satisfactory to know that, in the opinion of the writer, by means of this preparation and the important source of new strength derived from the improved relations of the Government of India with its Feudatory States "the Government of India may claim that it has done what could be done by strengthening its armament and bringing its forces to the highest efficiency to prepare for the not necessarily hostile but inevitable impact of Russia and England in Asia." 'Not necessarily hostile' is a consoling phrase: but then the money is always spent on the understanding that the "impact" *is* necessarily hostile. But India is entitled to the glory of having spent her money freely at any rate. England, as we have seen, according to the writer, has not been so forward in playing her part. It is always difficult to get money from John Bull; the "mild Hindu" is somewhat more summarily dealt with, he has not quite so much to say in the matter; and what he does say has to be said outside of Parliament.

Latest News and Notes.

THE Viceroy goes on his shooting trip in Cooch Behar about the middle of February. Lady Lansdowne accompanies His Excellency.

SIR Charles Elliott is likely to visit Orissa in January and to make a tour from Pooree into the interior. The Settlement operations now in progress will be specially attended to.

THE Drawing Room at the Government House on Thursday last was as marked a success as the Levee. The arrangements were excellent and the array of beauty and bouquets was splendid.

IT is stated that there will be a chapter at the Government House to confer *sunnuds* on those gentlemen who were honoured with titles on Queen's birthday.

LORD AND LADY WENLOCK left Calcutta for Madras on Tuesday, and arrived there on Saturday. The Governor leaves Madras on tour on 18th instant to visit the distressed tracts in the districts of Bellary, Kurnool and Cuddapah.

SIR AUCKLAND COLVIN pays a flying visit to Calcutta. His Honor arrives here to-morrow and stays for 3 days.

SIR JOHN EDGAR did not return with Sir Charles Elliott. But having made over charge of his office at Chupra to Mr. H. J. S. Cotton, he started for Agra on thirty-five days' leave. Mr. Cotton, in addition to his Secretariat duties, has been appointed President of the new Police Commission. Sir John is likely to goonfurlough next spring.

HIS Highness the Maharajah of Patiala is expected to visit Calcutta shortly. The visit of the Maharaja of Kapurtallah is also spoken of.

THE unveiling of the statue of Lord Dufferin at the head of the Red Road, on Tuesday last, was an interesting ceremony. The Viceroy performed it and the ceremony was attended with due Viceregal Honors, salutes being fired from the Fort William rampart on the arrival and departure of the Viceroy and on the statue —which is in Boehm's best style and one of his last of his Indian works—being unveiled. Guards of Honor with bands and colors attended and the assembly was distinguished including the Marchioness of Lansdowne, Sir Charles and Lady Elliott, the Maharaja of Cooch Behar, the Maharaja of Burdwan, the Maharaja

of Vizianagram, Maharaja Bahadur Sir Jotindra Mohun Tagore, Maharaja Durga Churn Law and Raja Peary Mohun Mukerji. The Hon'ble Mr. Mackay, as President of the Dufferin Memorial Committee, gave a short history of the proceedings of the Committee and asked His Excellency to unveil the statue of the late Viceroy that had been voted by the Town Hall meeting. In complying with the request, Lord Lansdowne paid the tribute of a high and eloquent eulogium to his distinguished predecessor and said that the most noticeable thing is that Lord Dufferin's career has been marked by unbroken continuity of his success. Most public men make mistakes, experience reverses, and find themselves for a time, rightly or wrongly, out of public favour, but the even course of Lord Dufferin's advance seems never to have undergone a check.

HIS Lordship touched on his diplomatic and Candian services and regarding the Indian Viceroyalty said :—

Whether in regard to the external or to the internal affairs of the Indian Empire, those four years were unusually eventful and laborious, and brought with them more than their share of trouble and heavy responsibility. Upon our western frontiers he left his mark by a settlement, as complete as the circumstances permitted, of a boundary question which, less judiciously handled, would have imperilled the peace of the world, and by establishing upon the throne of Afghanistan a Ruler who has since shown himself faithful in his allegiance to us, and strong enough to hold in check the turbulent elements of which his kingdom is composed. Upon our eastern confines he brought to a close a long series of complications and anxieties by the addition to the Empire of the Province of Upper Burma. It would be impossible within the limits which restrict me this evening to deal adequately with his administration of the internal affairs of India. It will be memorable for many useful measures, amongst which conspicuous place must be given to those for the improvement of the position of the cultivators of the soil in this Province, in Oudh, and in the Punjab. Education, the health of the people, the condition of the public service, the state of the Imperial Defences, the contribution to those defences made by the Indian States, the extension of our Railway system—all received their share of attention. I do not think it will be gain-said that these and the other grave problems which confronted him were dealt with patiently, courageously, and judiciously. Nor, when the history of Lord Dufferin's administration comes to be written, will it be regarded as the least of his achievements that he throughout conducted the affairs of this country in such a manner as to create and to maintain a kindly feeling and mutual confidence between all classes and sections of your Indian community. One of the most unmistakeable proofs that the verdict of his contemporaries in India was a favorable one is to be found in the fact that, as soon as his intended departure became known, a movement to erect this statue was set on foot. It was supported by all classes of the community without distinction of race, class, or creed.

HIS LORDSHIP went on to say :—

It would be hard, indeed, among his many brilliant qualities, to designate those to which his success has been specially due. It may perhaps be said that the most conspicuous of these have been his extraordinary perception of human nature, his unerring tact, and his power of conciliatin g opposition. Nor must we forget that rare gift of appropriate expression in speech and in writing which, it has often been said, came to him as a birthright, but which, as an assiduous student of arts and letters, he constantly cultivated and improved—a gift which invariably stood him in good stead, whatever the nationality or the character of his audience, and which enabled him with equal ease and happiness, and with the precise amount of erudition, humour, and sound sense which the occasion happened to require, to describe his own adve ntures in High Latitudes, to take his part in the hot en counter of political debate, to lay rich stores of wit and wisdom before an academical audience, or to give voice t o the feelings of a sorrow-stricken nation sharing its Sovereign's grief for an irreparable loss.

To the list which I have just given might perhaps be added one other quality possessed. I believe, in the same degree by no other public man of our day. His employment in the various offices of which I have just spoken has, to a great extent, cut him off from the narrower and more purely domestic politics of our own country, and has compelled him to look at the affairs of the Empire from a truly Imperial standpoint, and to include within his purview a horizon far wider than that of the average politicians of our day. It is no doubt to this that are due those qualities of higher and broader statesmanship which are discernible in almost everything that he has said and written. That is why his reputation will go down to posterity as that of a statesman, rather than a politician, as that of one who, in an age of party rivalries and sectional cleavage, was able to keep steadfastly before his eyes the larger interersts of that great Empire, the dignity and reputation of which he has upheld in so many parts of the globe.

HIS Excellency the Viceroy is pleased to renominate the Hon. J. L. Mackay, C. I. E., to be an Additional Member of the Legislative Council, with effect from the 12th instant.

MR. C. C. STEVENS has been appointed a member of the Bengal Board of Revenue. Mr. C. E. Buckland has been confirmed in the appointment of Secretary to the Bengal Government in the General, Revenue and Statistical Departments.

WE have a second Lady M. A. to boast of. The name of Mrs. Nirmola Shome appears among the graduates who passed the last M. A. Examination. She is a non-conformist Christian like Miss Chundramukhi Bose, who was our first lady M. A.

ON the close of the Government cases, with the exception of the Farlam murder case which had to stand over owing to the absence of an important witness, the Diamond case was called on on Monday. It was not true, as had been rumoured, that the Advocate General had retired from the prosecution, for it was he that opened the case for the prosecution, with ability and energy that it seldom rivalled. With him were associated Messrs Woodroffe, Jackson and Dunne, while for the defence appeared Messrs Inverarity, Pearson and Garth. The Hon'ble Mr. Ratigan did not appear for reasons that will elsewhere appear. In his opening address the Advocate-General exhorted the jury—all Europeans, for the native gentlemen had been all challenged—to banish prejudices and sympathies from their minds and strongly deprecated ante-trial newspaper criticism which had been freely indulged in in this case. He scouted the idea of the prosecution being actuated by malice or spite and said that the Nizam, one of the greatest independent princes in India, upon whom a serious and a gigantic fraud had been committed, would have wanting in his duty if he had not, in the interests of justice, placed the person who so defrauded him before a court of justice to justify his conduct, if he could. The accused, he said, has committed breach of trust in respect of 23 lakhs entrusted to him by the Nizam for the purpose of obtaining the inspection of a diamond called the Imperial Diamond of great value and reputation, the arrangement being that if the diamond were not approved the money would be returned. The case of the prosecution is that the money was obtained and paid upon that understanding. The diamond was shown, it was not approved, but the 23 lakhs were not returned. The money was not returned, and the diamond was retained by the accused, and therefore, so far as the Nizam was concerned, he lost the 23 lakhs altogether.

ON the close of the Advocate General's address, on the second day, the question of the admissibility of the Nizam's evidence taken on Commiss on at Hydrabad for the purpose of the Police enquiry was thoroughly gone into. The defence objected to the evidence going in and insisted upon the Nizam's being examined in Court. As far the admissibility of the evidence was concerned Mr. Justice Wilson ruled against it. The prosecution put in an affidavit to show that the Nizam's having to come to Calcutta would be very expensive and would paralyse the affairs of the State. They therefore asked for a postponement of the case and for a fresh commission. The learned presiding judge did not grant the application and the prosecution had to go on with their case. Mr. Abid was the first witness and his cross-examination concluded on Saturday. The re-examination is going on.

BABU Ganesh Chandra Chandra's second son, Babu Atul Chandra Chandra, who recently passed the M. A. examination with credit, committed suicide on Monday night. No cause can be assigned for this sad occurrence. The young man was loved and respected by all who came into contact with him. The sympathy of the entire community is with the bereaved father, who is so well known and so much esteemed by both natives and Europeans.

THE Calcutta public will have an opportunity of hearing, on Friday next, Edison's phonograph, at the Town Hall. Professor Douglas Archibald will deliver an illustrative explanatory lecture in the presence of His Excellency the Viceroy, and the entertainment which will be provided will be altogether of an unique character.

TO enable the Calcutta Police to cope more effectively with serious riots in the hearts of the town, superintendents are now armed with revolvers, Inspectors with swords, Mounted Police with cutlasses and European Reserve Constables with Snider rifles bored to fire buck-shot. Fifteen hundred *lathis* have also been provided for the native rank and file. It is to be earnestly hoped that there will be no occasion to open the armoury doors.

A BERLIN journal reports that the Emperor William, addressing a body of recruits recently at Potsdam, told them that the oath of allegiance which they had taken meant that they gave themselves to him body and soul, and that if the Socialist agitation compelled an order to be given to shoot down their relatives, even their parents, they must obey the order. The report is being much commented upon.

OFFICIAL advices received at Paris, concerning the rebellion in China show that Secret Societies from China proper instigated the present revolt. Altogether 500 Christians were massacred, and a number of churches were pillaged and burned. The British Consuls at Newchwang and Tientsin have wired to the Consul at Shanghai that the rebels have been completely dispersed. Forty-two rebels, who were taken prisoners during the recent fighting, have been beheaded at Pakon.

THE man, who had been put on his trial at Patna for suspected complicity in the murder case in which the body of the deceased woman had been sent in a box by rail to Howrah, has been acquitted.

DR. Dharmadas Basu, Civil Surgeon of Mymensingh, has offered to create a scholarship of Rs. 8 a month, tenable for two years, to be awarded every alternate year to the student of the Tumluk Hamilton School, who passes highest at the Entrance examination, but fails to win a Government scholarship. The Lieutenant-Governor is pleased to accept the offer, and desires that the thanks of Government be conveyed to the donor for his liberality.

LORD CROSS has recently been speaking on the "foreign affairs" of India. Speaking at Hanley His Lordship said that justice was the great keystone of British policy in India. This should hold good of domestic as well as foreign matters. He declared that further aggrandisement was not wished for, and that the Government desired to maintain the closest friendship with the Native States. Regarding the Amir of Afghanistan, it was only desired that he should rule his subjects properly and remain a friend to England. Lord Cross expressed a hope that no pressure would be exercised affecting the independence of Persia, and he also hoped that the French would not encroach on Siam.

THE new commercial treaties entered into by the Central European States provide for a reduction of duties on Indian cereals. The new German tariff admits the import of indigo and archil free of duty, and reduces the duty on wheat to 150 pfennigs and on maize to forty pfennigs per hundred kilos. It is considered that the commercial treaties will greatly strengthen the Triple Alliance. Servia is expected to shortly join the Union, and the adhesion of

of Holland, Spain, Bulgaria, and Roumania is hoped for.

THE Committee of the Chicago Exhibition are inviting prominent Anglo-Indian officials to join the Indian Committee of the Exhibition.

PRINCE DAMRONG, about whose European travels Reuter has been sending diligent bulletins, is shortly expected in India. He will make a prolonged tour for the purpose of studying the Indian educational system.

RENEWED gales have set in along the British coasts.

THE death is announced of Dom Pedro, ex Emperor of Brazil.

THOUGH the first accounts of the Railway accident at Lahore on Saturday before last appears to have been slightly exaggerated, it was quite appalling in magnitude and was one of the worst that has happened in India. On Saturday morning the Karachi down-mail on the North-Western Railway ran into an up-mixed train at a point 4½ miles north of Okara station, and 75 miles south of Lahore. The collision was one of great violence, the engines of both trains and several carriages being completely smashed. No fewer than thirty-two Native passengers and two railway servants were killed, and as many more persons were wounded. No Europeans are reported to be among the killed.

IT is officially announced that the Duke of Clarence and Avondale is betrothed to Princess Mary of Teck, the eldest daughter of Princess Mary Adelaide and the Duke of Teck. She is twenty-four years of age, and Prince Albert Victor is three years older. Gratification is expressed by the whole of the press at the betrothal of the Duke of Clarence and Avondale to an English Princess, and as being a love match. We congratulate His Royal Highness on the approaching fulfilment of his heart's desire.

MR. HARRISON BLAIR has been appointed to succeed Mr. Douglas Straight as Judge of the High Court, Allahabad.

AT the meeting of the Senate held on Saturday before last, the report of the Committee appointed to consider the needs of the University and the best way to meet them was laid on the table. The following motion, proposed by Justice Amir Ali, and seconded by Rai Rajkumar Sarvadhikari Bahadur was, after a short discussion, carried:—'That the report be referred back to the Committee for further consideration of the questions referred to and that the Committee be further requested to include in their report a further statement of the financial position of the University in reference to the proposals made in the report, including that for any other buildings, and any other proposals that they may have to make relative to the income and expenditure of the University.'

MESSRS SILBIGER and Co. are introducing an invention which threatens to revolutionise the mineral water industry of India. Carbonic acid gas obtained from mineral water springs in Germany is exported to this country in a liquid form under great pressure in strong wrought iron bottles. By an ingenious arrangement the gas can be used to aerate wine or water to any desired degree, and without the necessity of employing steam power. The apparatus is extremely simple, and, it is claimed, may be worked with perfect safety by a coolie, who can be taught to manage it in a few minutes. The inventors estimate that, prepared on this system, 3,000 bottles of soda water will not cost more than 14 or 15 rupees.

THE last number of the *Calcutta Gazette* contains a short resolution on works of public utility constructed during the last year. There were 307 works in all costing the aggregate sum of Rs. 3,36,144. The Resolution says that the donations for works of public utility have diminished considerably both in number and amount, and the Lieutenant-Governor hopes that the decrease noticed is a temporary one, and that future reports will show a decided improvement both in the number of works constructed and the sums contributed for them. To those who have contributed towards such works during 1890 the Lieutenant-Governor tenders his acknowledgments for their public spirit and liberality, and in doing so His Honour desires to express a hope that the good example set by them will be followed by those who can afford to contribute towards works of usefulness for the benefit of the poorer classes in the country. Letters of acknowledgment will be forwarded by the Government to those who have constructed works costing over Rs. 500. The contributors of works costing Rs. 500 and under will, as usual, receive an acknowledgment from the Commissioner or the Magistrate of the division.

THE frontier fight that was expected to be averted if possible has commenced. According to a telegram to the *Englishman*, on the 2nd instant the force under Colonel Durand attacked a hostile gathering of Hunza and Nagar tribesmen, and took Nilt Fort, on the south of the Hunza River, about four miles above Chalt. The Fort is a strong one, and was held by the enemy until the gate was blown in, and an entrance was effected after desperate fighting. Colonel Durand is reported to have been severely wounded while laying a gun within two hundred yards of the Fort. The bullet, however, was extracted, and he is doing well. The enemy's loss was heavy, one gun and nine prisoners being captured. The enemy held a very strong position at Mayun in Sangars, whence their sharp shooters gave trouble. The British force are building block-houses prior to advancing. The 4th of December was passed in desultory firing. The latest date of the intelligence received is the 4th instant.

TELEGRAPHIC advices from Brazil state that a financial panic exists in Rio de Janeiro and the banks are guarded by armed men. The Government has ordered the Governor of the State to resign, but the latter refuses to do so. It is expected that martial law will be proclaimed.

A CROWDED and influential meeting was held at the L. M. S. Institution at Bhowanipur, on Saturday last, for the election of Congress delegates. Mr. W. C. Bonnerjee was in the chair and a large number of delegates was elected.

BABU Ram Chunder Chatterjee, who was summoned to Indore by the Maharaja, made a very successful balloon ascent before the Maharaja and an immense gathering the other day. He succeeded in ascending to an altitude of 10,000 feet; but the weather becoming stormy he gradually descended, reaching the ground a few miles distant from where he had started. The Maharaja sent sowars and conveyance to the scene of his alighting to escort him back to Indore, and was so pleased with his performance that he made him a handsome present both in money and costly gifts.

THE Calcutta Fine Arts Exhibition is expected to be opened on the 21st instant in the new rooms, in Council House Street.

A REPORT was current that Rai Durgagati Bannerjee, Bahadur Collector of Calcutta, had been asked to retire from public service. A European officer was expected to be appointed in his place. After Babu Durgagati has clearly demonstrated the possibility of success of a native Collector even in the Metropolis of India, the experiment, it was justly said, might well be repeated. Babu Durgagati is an officer of great merit and working powers, and his retirement owing to the rigid working of the 55 years rule would be a serious loss to the service. We are glad to be able te say, however, that the report mentioned above is utterly groundless.

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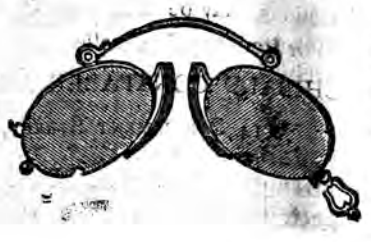

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THE STANDARD COMPANY'S FUNDS have increased fifty per cent. during the last fifteen years, and now amount to upwards of Seven Millions Sterling. The business of 1890 was the largest in the history of the Company. Premiums moderate, conditions liberal. THOMAS LANG,—Genl. Secy., Standard Life Office. *4, Council House Street. Calcutta.*

DOCTOR'S PRESCRIPTIONS.—Pains in the stomach, their treatment. Statistics show that 80 out of every 100 human beings suffer from the stomach, and as these maladies, with very rare exceptions, occasion bad temper and spleen, the sufferers are a source of annoyance to their families and freinds. It is rendering a veritable service to those attacked by dulness, pituites, risings, cramps in the stomach, etc., etc., to draw their atteintion to the following:—The Parisian Academy of Medicine after numerous experiments has approved and highly recommended the use of Doctor Belloc's Charcoal for maladies of the stomach. See that you get Dr. Belloc's Charcoal Pastilles or Powder, as since Dr. Belloc invented medicinal Charcoal, many inferior imitations have been pressed upon the public.

A REPORT presented to American Congress by Mr. Foster, Secretary to the Treasury, says that the McKinley Tariff has generally reduced the price of manufactures, and decreased the Customs Revenue. He dwells upon the importance of promoting shipbuilding and navigation, and urges the Congress to legislate to restrict immigration to America. The silver question is not touched upon in the report.

WE grieve to record the death of Kaviraj Brajendranath Sen Gupta, of Jorasanko. He was in very indifferent health for some time but having had stamina enough to recover from severe attacks of illness before, it was expected by his medical attendants that he would be pulled through this time also. But broncho-pneumonia supervened, ending fatally on Friday last. The deceased was one of the most able and conscientious exponents of *Aurvedic* treatment and one of the most successful and popular native physicians of Calcutta. He had the great advantage of carefully studying the European system of medicine also, which stood him in good stead in the matter of diagnosis, and though an orthodox practitioner in the truest sense, he never allowed narrow-minded prejudices to interfere with the welfare of his patients. Above all he possessed the truest attribute of the practitioner of the healing art, namely, a kindly disposition and charitable instincts that secured his services wherever and whenever they were wanted. Both as a man and a physician he commanded esteem and regard and his amiable character popularised him outside the circle of his patients large as it was. He was a sound Sanskrit scholar and delighted in promoting the spread of Sanskrit learning in general and specially bearing on the medical science and he maintained and educated at his own expense a large number of indigent students. In his untimely death we have lost not only a distinguished physician but a worthy man and an esteemable citizen.

MR. RATTIGAN is said to have thrown up the defence brief owing to feelings of dissatisfaction entertained by the Calcutta Bar for importing a second foreign Counsel in the case. It is stated that on Mr. Rattigan asking for an assurance to the contrary he was simply told that his appearing would be no infringement of etiquette, which not satisfying him he retired. Mr. Jacob's friends make a grievance of this and say that the defence has been seriously prejudiced specially by reason of all the leaders of the Calcutta bar being retained for the prosecution. Mr. Inverarity was not objected to because he was retained long ago and had appeared in the lower Court as well as on the Commission. Mr. Rattigan laid in writing his views of the matter in withdrawing from the case whereupon a bar meeting was held, and Mr. Rattigan was assured that the feeling out of respect to which he had retired was too unfair and narrow-minded and was by no means general. This was too late as Mr. Rattigan had already thrown up his brief and left for Lahore. The bar would have been unworthy of its traditions if the assurances that were conveyed to Mr. Rattigan were not conveyed. And even if they were not conveyed, we would have been loath to believe that the feelings which Mr. Rattigan thought proper to respect, were to the disgrace of the bar general. There are men in the bar as honourable, worthy and good as any that ever advocated a clients' cause.

THE following telegram has been received from the President of the Congress Reception Committee at Nagpur:—"Mr. Ananda Charlu of Madras to be President."

SOMETHING very interesting will take place at the Corinthian Theatre on Wednesday evening next, when Tom Cannon, the champion wrestler of the world will meet Gulis Bartuletta, who is the recognised champion wrestler of Italy. Cannon some years ago defeated Professor Miller in Melbourne when the contest lasted one hour and three quarters, since which time he has never been beaten by any living man. The contest to take place on Wednesday next is for a prize of one thousand Rupees, which sum has been subscribed by several gentlemen of Calcutta who are anxious to witness the great wrestler. A large number of seats have already been taken. Cannon announces that he is prepared to wrestle any man in India—native or European—in any style and as there are a number of excellent wrestlers in the native community, it is hoped that before Cannon leaves the city, an opportunity will be afforded of witnessing a match between a native and himself. Several of our sporting Rajahs have signified their intention of being present on Wednesday night. Cannon is also prepared to accept private engagements for wrestling exhibitions, full particulars of which can be obtained from Mr. Allan Hamilton, Corinthian Theatre, who is Cannon's sole Manager. Tickets for all parts of the Theatre can be purchased at the Corinthian Theatre daily from 10 to 1 and also on the night of the performance.

WANTED.

FOR the District Board, Burdwan, a District Engineer on a Salary of Rs. 400, rising to Rs. 600, by annual increments of Rs. 25.

Applications for the post should be submitted to the undersigned not later than the 15th January 1892, in Sealed and registered covers addressed to the Chairman District Board, Burdwan and superscribed "application for appointment of District Engineer."

Each application should be accompanied by certificates and testimonials shewing that the candidate possesses the requisite qualifications as prescribed in rule 2 of the Rules published by Government, under date the 14th March 1887, under clauses (*g*) (*h*), (*m*) of section 138 Act III (B. C.) of 1885, and also by an envelope addressed and sufficiently for registration in which the certificates may be returned in the event of the application being unsuccessful.

If a Government officer is appointed, he will be required to pay the usual contributions towards his leave and pensionary allawances to Government.

BURDWAN
District Board's Office
The 1st Dec. 1891.

H. C. WILLIAMS,
Chairman, District Board,
Burdwan.

MEMORY. LOISETTE'S System. A Law Lecturer of King's College London (J. H. Scaife, LL.B.), says (Jan., 1891): "Invaluable for examination purposes and as a sound training of the Memory." A Cambridge University) Lecturer (Dr. R. N. Ingle, M.A.) was (Jan., 1890- "Much impressed with the possibilities of improvement to memory which the LOISETTE Lessons open up." "I derived great benefit for your lessons, though it at first prejudiced against them by the misrepresentations of Mr. Appleby."—Dr. Geo. Herschell, Pysician to the West End Hospital for Diseases of the Nervous System, London. "In three weeks I was able to memorise the names, &c., of 400 men."—Major Jamieson, Bengal S. C. "Excellent' travelling companion."—Capt J. B. Haye, R. N. "Wonderful aid to memory."—Mirza Sader-ud-din Khan. "Invaluable."—J. J. Francis, Q. B. "Does not involve much abpour."—*Statesman*, 23rd Oct., 1887 "The audience (representative of the learned Professions) was most enthusiastic." *Glasgow Herald*, 5th March, 1891 Tremendously popular in Oxford."—*Pall Mall Gazette*, 4th Feb., 1890. Prospectus Free. One Pupk Rs. 76; Ten pupils Rs. 19 each. Apply to F. Fili Williams, 71, Elliot Road, Calcutta; or to A. LOISETTE, 37. New Oxford Street, London

OWING principally to an increase in the receipts from railway traffic, the income of the Howrah Bridge last year exceeded that of 1889-90 by Rs. 10,198, and it exceeded by Rs. 21,427 the estimate (Rs. 1,57,597) of the Committee appointed by the Government in January 1888 to consider the revised scale of tolls and fees which should be levied after the bridge debt had been paid off. Excluding the cost of plant obtained for lighting the bridge by electricity and payments made to the Government on account of the sinking fund on the consolidated and debenture loans of the Port Trust, the expenditure exceeded that of the previous year by Rs. 5,295. This increase was partly due to the purchase of a new pontoon for Rs. 16,016, which will be used when occasion arises, and partly to an increase of about Rs. 8,000 in Municipal taxes; on the other hand there was a decrease of about Rs. 20,000 in working expenses and repairs, which should have been explained. The net revenue of the year under review amounted to Rs. 31,958, making, with the net revenue of the previous years since the bridge was opened for traffic, a total net revenue of Rs. 34,59,516. No sea-going vessels collided with the bridge in passing through the opening, but there were 149 collisions of other vessels against 91 and 115 in 1888-89 and 1889-90 respectively. The increase is said to be due to the strong freshets which prevailed during the rainy season of 1890.

NOTICE.

ESTATE JAGU LALL DOBEY DECEASED.

The public are hereby informed that Sreemutty Manaka Rani Dabi of Wellington Street in Bowbazar, Calcutta, is the sole widow and heiress of the deceased abovenamed who died intestate and that as such widow and heiress. She obtained letters of administration to the said Estate under an order of the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal in its Testamentary and intestate Jurisdiction, dated the 23rd of April 1888, and that no one else has any interest whatsoever in the said Estate. The public are therefore cautioned against dealing with any one else in regard to the said Estate or advancing money on the security thereof or any portion thereof.

KALLYNATH MITTER & SARVADHIKARY,
Attorneys for S. M. Manokarani Dabi

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Government Notification

Calcutta Gazette—*December 9, 1891.*

GENERAL.—Mr. C. E. Buckland, Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal in the General, Revenue and Statistical Departments, is confirmed in that appointment, vice Mr. P. Nolan.

Mr. C. C. Stevens, Commissioner, Patna Division, on leave, is appointed to be a Member of the Board of Revenue on the retirement of Mr. A. Smith.

Mr. W. R. Bright, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, is appointed to act, until further orders, in the first grade of Joint-Mrgistrates and Deputy Collectors, with effect from the forenoon of the 19th ultimo, and is posted to the head-quarters station of the Monghyr district, with effect from the 27th idem.

The services of Mr. C. A. Bell, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, 24-Pergunnahs, are placed temporarily at the disposal of the Financial Department of this Government.

In modification of the order of the 3rd July last, it is notified that Mr. J. F. Stevens, District and Sessions Judge of Mozufferpur, was on leave, under article 308 of the Civil Service Regulations, from the afternoon of the 9th July 1891 to the forenoon of the 10th October 1891.

The Lieutenant-Governor is pleased to accept the resignation tendered by the Rev. A. W. Atkinson, Honorary Chaplain of the Calcutta Volunteer Rifle Corps, of his commission, with effect from the 17th November 1891.

Babu Kanty Chunder Mukerji, Munsif of Oluberiah, in the district of Hooghly, is appointed to be a substantive *pro tempore* Depuey Magistrate and Deputy Collector of the sixth grade.

The services of Babu Kanty Chunder Mookerjee, substantive *pro tempore* Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, are placed at the disposal of the Revenue Department of this Government for employment on survey and settlement work in Chittgong.

In modification of the order dated the 24th ultimo, Babu Parbati Churn Roy, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, on furlough, is posted to the head-quarters station of the 24-Pergunnahs district.

The services of Mr. W. C. Macpherson, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, are placed at the disposal of the Board of Revenue for employment on special duty, with effect from the date on which he assumed charge.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. E. Gordon, Officiatihg Deputy Commissioner, Lohardugga, is appointed to act, until further orders, in the first grade of Deputy Commissioners, with effect from the 16th November 1891.

Babu Koilas Chunder Das, Sub-Deputy Collector, on deputation as Manager under the Court of Wards, Chittagong, is appointed to be a Probationary Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, but to continue on deputation until further orders.

Mr. C. J. S. Faulder is appointed to act, until further orders, as Magistrate and Collector of Pubna.

Mr. Nunda Krishna Bose, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, is appointed to act, until further orders, in the first grade of Joint-Magistrates and Deputy Collectors, and is posted to the head-quarters station of the Pubna district, on being relieved of his present appointment as Officiating Magistrate and Collector of that district.

Moulvi Abul Khair Mohamed Abdus Subhan, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Patna, is transferred to Gya, and is posted to the head-quarters station of that district.

This cancels the order of the 30th ultimo transferring him to Dacca.

Mr. H. R. H. Coxe is appointed to act, until further orders, in the first grade of Joint-Magistrtes and Deputy Collectors, with effect from the date on which he was relieved of his officiating appointment as Magistrate and Collector of Chumparun, and is appointed to have charge of the Bettiah sub-division of that district, with effect from the date on which he joined the sub-division.

Mr. E. W. Collin, substantive *pro tempore* Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, first grade, is confirmed in that grade, with effect frrm the 22nd September 1891, vice Mr. C. S. Bayley, but will continue to act, until further orders, as Magistrate and Collector of Rungpore.

Kumar Gopendra Krishna Deb, substantive *pro tempore* Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, second grade is confirmed in that grade, with effect from the 22nd September 1891, vice Mr. E. W. Collin, but will continue to act, untill further orders, in the first grade of Joint-Magistrates and Deputy Collectors.

JUDICIAL.—Mr. W. R. Bright, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Monghyr, is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the first class, and with the power to try summarily the offences mentioned in section 260 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The following officers are vested with the power to try summarily the offences mentioned in section 260 of the Code of Criminal Procedure:—

Babu Opendra Chunder Mazumdar, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Backergunge.

Babu Sitikanta Ghose, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Maldah.

Babu Amrito Lal Chatterjee, Subordinate Judge of Hazaribagh and Lohardugga, is appointed to be also Subordinate Judge of Palamow, with effect from the 1st January 1892.

Babu Mohendra Nath Dutt, B.L., is appointed to act as a Munsif in the district of Dinagepur, to be ordinarily stationed at Phulbari, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Nilmadhab Roy, or until further orders.

Babu Harendra Narayan Guha, B.L, is appointed to act as a Mnnsif in the district of Noakhally, to be ordinarily stationed at Sudharam, during the absence, on deputation, of Babu Nilalohit Mukerjee, or until further orders.

Mr. Nundo Krishna Bose, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Pubna, is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the first class, and with the power to try summarily the offences mentioned in section 260 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

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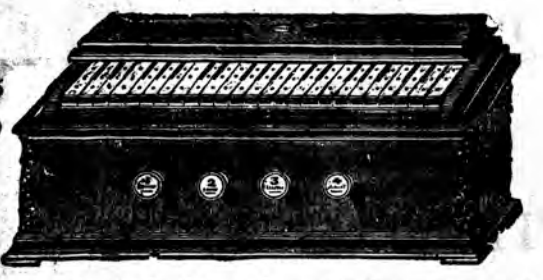

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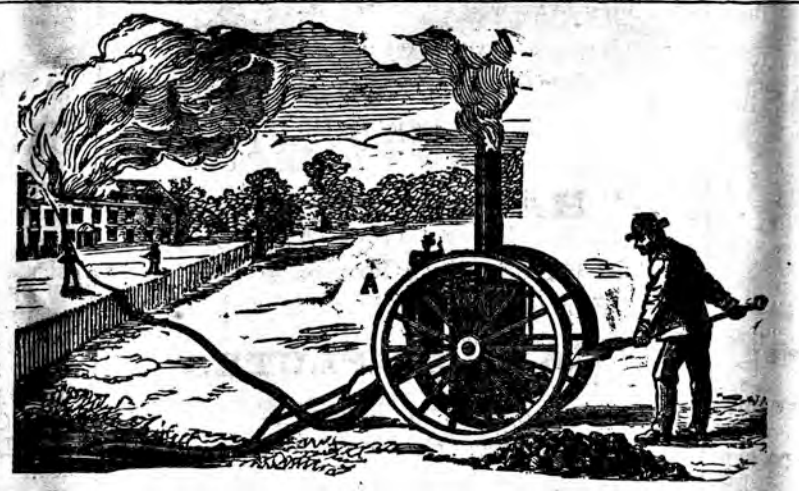

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THE BRITISH INDIAN ASSOCIATION.

PROTEST AGAINST THE BEHAR CADASTRAL SURVEY.

THERE was a large and influential gathering of the zemindars of Bengal in the hall of the British Indian Association rooms, Saturday afternoon, to consider the propriety of submitting a Representation to the Government of Bengal regarding the Cadastral Survey of Behar recently ordered by the Government of Bengal. Among the noblemen and gentlemen present we noticed the following :—H. H. Maharaja Luchmiswar Singh Bahadur, K. C. I. E., Durbhanga—*in the Chair*. Maharaja Bahadur Sir Jotendra Mohan Tagore, K. C. S. I, Maharaja Bahadur Sir Narendra Krishna, K. C. I. E, Maharaja Durga Charan Law, C. I. E, Raja Peary Mohan Mukerjea, C. S. I, Raja Dilawar Reza, Maharaj Kumar Benoy Krishna, Maharaj Kumar Prodyat Kumar Tagore, Moulvi Mahamad Yusuff Khan Bahadur, Rai Tej Narain Singh Bahadur, Rai Shib Chunder Banerjea Bahadur, Rai Raj Kumar Sarvadhikari Bahadur, Babus Chandilal Singh, Damodardas Burman, Sital Prosad Singh, Kiran Chandra Roy, Janakinath Roy, Sitanath Roy, Narendranath Mukerjea, Jodh Kumar Mukerjea, Matilal Ghose, Saligram Singh, Mahabir Prasad, Devaprasad Sarvadhikari, Mr. J. Ghosal, Pandit Prannath Saraswati, Syed Moulvi Ali, Syed Mahamad Tahir, Babus Haro Mohan Roy Chowdhuri, Bolaki Lal, Nannu Singh, Gopal Narain Singh, Ugramohan Tagore, Jaladhinath Mukerjea, Nalin Vihari Mukerji, Jotendranath Mukerjea, Sarat Kumar Banerjea, Kissen Sahai, Bhubaneswar Misra, Pran Kristo Bagchi, Jogesh Chandra Bhattacharjea, Benaik Chandra Chatterjea, Radhasyam Mozumdar, Mathura Nath Ghose, Kasiswar Mukerjea, Kalidas Bannerjea, Sarat Kumar Lahiri, Sivapratap Banerjea, Raghunath Singh, Raghunandan Prasad, Rama Prasad, Surendranath Mukerjea and others.

Maharaja Bahadur Sir Jotendra Mohan Tagore the President of the British Indian Association proposed his Highness the Maharaja of Durbhanga as Chairman, and in doing so he said that in consequence of ill-health he (the mover) was unable to take an active part in the proceedings, but the objects of the meeting had his hearty sympathy. There was no fitter person among them, both on account of his position and the closeness of the effect which the proposed measure had upon him, to preside over their deliberations, on the matter for discussion, than His Highness theMaharaja of Durbhanga, and he felt sure that the Resolution would meet with their unanimous support. Maharaja Bahadur Sir Narendra Krishna seconded the resolution, which was carried by acclamation.

His Highness the Maharaja of Durbhanga on taking the chair said that he was grateful for the honor which the meeting had done him in electing him their chairman. Of course he was expected to make a speech; but that would mean simply a repetition of what he had already said on the subject at Sonepur, at a meeting held there three weeks ago, and attended by over 2,000 zemindars of that part of the province. He would not therefore inflict a speech on them, for he felt sure that most of those present were acquainted with his remarks. But this he would say, the Behar zemindars were unanimous in condemning the proposed cadastral survey, and to a man believed that instead of working good it would do incalculable harm. As a Behar land-holder he was glad to see so many influential Bengal zemindars willing to join their brother zemindars in a protest against the measure. He felt sure that the Government would give their protest a respectful hearing. The proposed measure had been conceived on a misconception, and it was their duty to respectfully represent in what direction that misconception lay; and he would be mistaken in his estimate of the justice of the Government if their representation failed. He had said enough, and he would leave it to others to discuss the question,

The first resolution was moved by Maharaja Bahadur Sir Narendra Krishna, and seconded by Moulvi Mahomed Yusuff, Khan Bahadur. Rai Shib Chandra Bannerjea Bahadur, in supporting the Resolution said :—

Maharajas, Rajas and gentlemen,—You have done me a reat honor by calling on me to support the first Resolution. I feel I am unable to do full justice to the subject to consider which we have met here today. I mean the proposed cadastral survey and settlement of a part of Behar. I shall however try to deal with it in the best way I can. I shall consider the subject under six different heads :—1st, I shall show you that the measure is unnecessary and uncalled for; 2nd, that will bad to expensive litigation; 3rd that it will be ruinously expensive; 4th, that there are many difficulties attending it; 5th, that it will desturb the p aceful relations between landlords and tenants; and 6th, that it is inopportune.

The Survey and settlement proposed is not necessary. The conditions under which such proceedings ought ordinarily to be undertaken according to law are set forth in clauses *a* to *d* of Section 101 of the Bengal Tenancy Act; none of those conditions however exist in the present case. (1) Neither the Landlords nor the Tenants ask for it. (2) No serious dispute likely to arise is to be averted by the preparation of a record of rights. (3) The estates to be surveyed are neither the property of Government nor managed by the Court of Wards and lastly no settlement of Government revenue is being made in respect of the local area to be surveyed. Under such circumstances it is difficult to justify the measure without an exposition of the causes (not vouchsafed to the public) which has induced the Government of India to sanction the proceedings. Almost all the material information to be collected by the survey and settlement, so far as the interests of the ryots even are concerned, is available in the records of the Zemindars, and if there are exceptional defects in solitary cases, that affords no reasonable grounds for ignoring the existence of better records in the province at large; and cannot justify the levy of heavy and in some instances of ruinous costs for a new set of papers in slightly modified forms.

The particulars required to be recorded among others, to be added to or left out, under Section 102 of the Tenancy Act relating to the names of tenants; the class to which he belongs either permanent or temporary, the situation, quantity and boundaries of the land, the rent payable and whether it is liable to enhancement or not and similar matters of detail, are ordinarily available in all well-managed Zemindaries. It is therefore hard that what has answered the legitimate wants of both landlords and tenants for ages and never been contested as a rule as insufficient or unsatisfactory should be ignored, by Government and in attempting to replace them by another set of records apparently varying only in shape and not in substance, opportunity should be given to raise contentions not subsisting or long lost sight of and forgotten. The issue of Rent receipts in the form prescribed in Schedule II of the Tenancy Act, has contributed to make many points connected with rents and tenures so clear that what defects if any, did exist in the old Zemindary papers has been essentially rectified. Over and above this, Section 158 of the Act gives power to every aggrieved ryot to enforce the survey and settlement of his tenure in the way a general survey and settlement is calculated to do. But the material difference in the procedure is significantly great. In the one case only the ryot suffering a hardship applies for its removal and incurs the liability of paying the needful costs if awarded against him; in the other case wronged or not wronged, seeking or not seeking redress—all must be exposed to the annoyance and expense incident to extensive survey and settlement operations conducted at the first stage by Ameens and Amlahs not above temptation and not sparing or scrupulous in their dealings with ignorant and illiterate ryots.

With due deference to the present rulers of the country, I have satisfied myself by a careful enquiry, the result of which accords with very long experience of the affairs of zemindars and ryots, that the proposed survey and settlement is unnecessary and uncalled for, so far as the real needs thereof are concerned and that the expense and annoyance concerned therewith will be quite disproportionate to the extra advantages to be derived from it and that in the interests alike of the zemindars and ryots it will be judicious and kind for Government to spare the country from the effects of the measure contemplated.

It goes without saying that the proposed measure will be attended with an increase of litigation unprecedented in its character. The landlords and the ryots will both be involved in law suits, the cost of which it will take them years to recoup, if it does not prove altogether ruinous to many of them. In the thinly inhabited district of Purneah filled with jungle and water in several parts there were 2400 cases in court in connection with the survey and settlement undertaken of only a small part of that district. In the Bhagulpore tract which forms also a small fraction of the entire district the number of contested cases in court aggregated.

There are many zemindars and ryots who are unable punctually to pay the Government revenue and landlords' rent without raising loans at usurious rates of interest, for them to be saddled with the cost of the proposed survey and settlement operations means clear ruin; and if I may be allowed to say so I would add that the parties in whose interests it is to be undertaken will be fleeced to enrich the village mooktear and the members of law above him.

The cost estimate at 8 annas per acre is believed to be much below the mark and does not include many items of expense legal and illegal which are unavoidble. It is estimated by people who possess practical experience of all the details of the business that the cost of the contemplated operations will amount to two crores of rupees in round numbers over and above the annual expenditure of thousands required for the maintenance and preservation of the elaborate and voluminous records which to be useful will have to be kept in order and efficiency.

The difficulties of the undertaking are undoubtedly great. I cannot do better than quote the opinions of some of the high officers of Government who were consulted on the subject.

Mr. Beames, who was then Commissioner of the Burdwan Division, and who is known to be a great authority in revenue matters was of opinion that "to introduce the system into an old and permanently settle province will not only be very expensive but will stir up agitation and litigation on all sides. The officers whom I have consulted agree with me in thinking that the whole procedure is objectionable, and in hoping that the country is not about to be plunged into a state of confusion, unparallelled since the days of Native rule, merely for the purpose of endeavouring to arrive at a result which can never be attained."

Mr. Barlow, Commissioner of the Bhagulpore Division, and all the Collectors under him, objected to a cadastral survey, on the ground that the whole of its effect "will be lost unless arrangements are made for the mutation of names, &c., after the record is complete." Mr. Oldham Deputy Commissioner of the Sonthal Pergunnahs, where a cadastral survey was made, acknowledged the difficulties of the operation and candidly confessed that it would be useful for a certain period, having proved so for nine years only in the Sonthal Pergunnahs. He would not attempt to keep up the records by entering mutations in consideration of the vastness of the work."

Mr. Wilson, Collector of Midnapore said :—

"The proposed operations would be of no permanent value without the means of correcting the records and keeping them up to date, and I do not think it would be wise to enter upon a project, involving the expenditure of nearly four crores of rupess [the estimate here is four for the whole of the territories under the Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal, and is undoubtedly an underestimate] without considering how the record of rights is to be kept up, and what the annual cost of keeping it up would be. This is the more nencssary, and as to prevent the confusion which must result from the accumulation of arrears, the process of correction

should follow closely on the preparation of the original." Mr. Wilson then proceeded to point out that "the amount of work in respect of transfer and leases alone may be to some extent estimated by referring to the statistical returns of the Registration Department, 134,250 transfers and 19,519 were registered in the year 1882-83. If the survey of any district were complete it might be possible to require the survey numbers to be given in all leases and transfer deeds. The Registry Office could then furnish the Survey Office with the needful particulars regarding all registered transactions. This would be troublesome and expensive, and a considerable permanent staff would be required in the Survey Office. It must be remembered, however, long before the survey and record of rights of any district was complete, and before, therefore, the mention of survey numbers in documents relating to land could be made compulsory, a considerable number of changes would have occurred, and consequently there would be much difficulty in bringing the entries up to date. With regard to the numerous transactions which are not registered, including enhancements, it would probably be suggested that the necessary information should be collected by means of patwaris. But the cost of this would be very great. If any reliance is to be placed on a patwari's papers he must have a decent salary, and it can be hardly thought that Rs. 10 a month—the lowest pay of a mohurir—would be too large an amount to give in order to raise him above the temptation which surround him. Now there are in Bengal 2,48,706 villages, and if the odd 48,706 be omitted as uninhabited, a patwari on Rs. 10 a month in each of the remaining 200,000 would cost in all Rs. 2,40,00,000 a year, or nearly two and a half crores of rupees. I take no account of the cost of the establishment which would be required in each district for the purpose of arranging and entering in the records the information supplied by patwaris, nor is it necessary to discuss here the percentage of dishonest or otherwise erroneous entries likely to be found in a patwari's papers. Who would bear the cost I know not, but whether the money is to come from Government or the zemindars, I would suggest that this large income, if really available from any source, should be devoted to the rapid construction of railways, canals and roads, as large public works of this class are in my judgment, likely to be more useful than patwaris."

Lord Ulick Browne said:—

"A record made in 1885 that A is an occupancy holder of holding B may be quite useless in 1888 owing to A leaving it, and to its being split into three holdings given to three non occupancy ryots, or split into four bits, two of which are given to non occupancy ryots and two to adjacent occupancy holdings, thus also affecting the record of this holding made in 1885 . . . . I do not think it would be possible by any legal provision to obtain correct information of the numerous changes in permanently settled estates, and if it were possible the business of recording changes would be so vast that it does not seem advisable to undertake it. I think therefore, that it is not worth while undertaking an operation of such magnitude in order to secure such limited advantages as could be expected from it, while much forgery and perjury would be inevitable."

"Every one concerned being hostile to the whole proceeding, no one would be very ready to give correct information. The general feeling in such cases is that if there must be a survey it is advisable to cripple its power of evil by supplying as many erroneous or distorted facts as may be. The statements of landlords and tenants regarding rents and rights would not be found to agree, and it will not always be easy to decide which is right..... and I fear that when all is said and done any such general record will contain a very considerable percentage of erroneous entries."

The Commissioner of the Chittagong Division was equally pronounced in his opinion. Admitting the want of authoritative agricultural records in Bengal, he proceeded to say that "the work of effecting a remedy is truly a gigantic task, and if attempted on the proposed lines an impossible one." He apprehended that "almost every single entry" with regard to rent would lead to a "protracted dispute," and then went on to observe: "It would be possible to make out a record which will show only the status and position of the tenant, though even that would be a task of no mean magnitude; but once we attempt to touch the question of rent we enter on an enquiry that covers the whole dispute which is at present agitating the agricultural community in Lower Bengal and putting such a strain on the relations existing between landlords and tenants. It may be necessary to enter on a work of such magnitude for the preservation of the public peace, but I do not consider that anything short of a grave crisis will be held to justify our taking in hand so intricate and difficult an undertaking."

I will conclude by quoting the opinion of Mr. Cotton then an officiating Commissioner now the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal whose sympathies with the people of this province are well known to all. Mr. Cotton was "constrained" to say that he looked with "anxiety" on the provisions of the Bill which empowered the local Government to undertake a cadastral survey "in any case with the previous sanction of the Governor-General in Council." "The proposal to introduce a survey and record of right over the whole of Bengal," wrote Mr. Cotton "is by no means the panacea which some seem to consider it." He did not dwell so much on the difficulties of the proposal, but he objected to it "on the very ground on which it was generally supported." Mr. Cotton then went on in his own expressive and eloquent way to say: "It is well, no doubt, that an independent agricultural record should exist which neither zemindar nor zemindar's amla could transfer. [Para. 103 of Government of India's Despatch No. 6, dated 21st March, 1882.] Such a record is very desirable on many grounds, but I see no reason for supposing that it will bring with it a general agricultural settlement or any material increase of rural prosperity. And a similar result has not ensued in those provinces in India in which a survey and record of rights has been accomplished. It is not fair to compare the North-West Provinces with Bengal, as other causes have led to the accumulation of wealth in your favoured province; but I certainly do not find any evidence to show that the record of rights has led to the enrichment of the peasantry of Upper India.

And I am sure of this that in Bengal, where, owing partly to the accident of the Permanent Settlement, it has hitherto been the policy of Government to interfere as little as possible with the people, the attempt to make a survey and record of rights will give rise to great local opposition and to excessive litigation, by which many persons who are now well off will be impoverished. A survey and records of rights is necessary where disputes exist, where oppression prevails, and where the peasantry are poor and need protection. For this reason, the provisions of the Bill are likely to prove useful, if they are judiciously enforced. But over most parts of Bengal it cannot be alleged that there are disputes, oppression or poverty; to introduce a settlement of rents and record of rights in Bengal generally will merely excite disputes and kindle litigation. The normal relation of landlord and tenant in these provinces is one of compromise; it is true that rights are unadjusted, the balance of rent is undetermined; the current demand of rent is not fixed; the area of cultivation is often unknown; it is for the convenience of both parties that the claims of either are not put to the test, and yet it is not the case that the ordinary relations between landlord and tenant are unfriendly. The narrow induction drawn by local officials from occasional disturbances which come to their notice misleads them, and has misled Government into the delusion that general disaffection exist. The one or two cases of disturbance come prominently to notice, the thousands and thousands of instances in which order and contentment prevail pass by unobserved. But the existing state of things, which is satisfactory because it is in accordance with the custom of the country and not objected to by any, will certainly not continue after the appearance of the 'Revenue Officer' in the districts.

All that was elastic and unsettled will, under the new procedure, be stereotyped and fixed, and both parties will struggle with one another to the utmost in the Civil Courts in order that disputes may be decided which would never have arisen if the Surveyor's rod and the Settlement Officer's registers had not galvanised them into life. It is difficult to over-estimate the bitterness of feelings which a survey and record of rights will thus provoke. The evil, I think, will outweigh any administrative advantages derived from it. I venture also to think that most persons who are competent from their experience and knowledge of these provinces to form an opinion on the subject will be found to agree with me in this deliberate conclusion, that a survey and record of rights, if it is calculated to settle disputes where they already exist, is equally calculated, where they do not, to call them into existence."

The statements of such distinguished officers supported by the officers of the Maharajas, and Rajas and other leading Zemindars who are present here to-day ought in such matters certainly to outweigh the contrary opinions of one or two officers of Government who recommend the measure. Its proceedings will certainly lead to bad feeling between zemindars and tenants. It is only five years since the Bengal Tenancy Act was enforced and just as the differences between the zemindars and ryots are settling down and peace and good feeling are being restored it is to be regretted that any thing should be done which is calculated to foster hostile feelings between the parties. The comfort of a ryot depends to some extent as much upon the good will of his zemindar as that of the zemindar more or less on his ryot.

Gentlemen, last but certainly not the least is the question whether the Government should have selected this as the proper time for carrying out the measure demands serious consideration. It is admitted on all hands that there is a scarcity, if not actual famine, in Behar brought on by a partial failure of the crops. The ryots are at present entirely at the mercy of the landlords for the maintenance of themselves and their families. At such a time one can easily guess what the effect of a hostile feeling between the two parties will be and considering that many of the zemindars in Behar are indebted and that it is not easy to raise fresh loans, it will be impossible to be lenient in the recovery of rents and afford any relief to their distressed ryots if they are required to bear the enormous cost of the survey and settlement operations even if they are allowed to pay instalments.

The time is certainly inopportune to carry out the measure. Sir Steuart Baley abandoned it for a time at least as there was scarcity in Behar in 1889 and scarcely have the zemindars and ryots got over the bad effects of bad years, when they have to face another calamity of the like kind this year. If notwithstanding our respectful representations the measure is carried out the result will be, many of the old landed classes in Behar who are heavily involved now, will be sold up and before the good effects of the survey are felt by them they will have to make room for the Bunia Mahajans who buy their property in execution of their decrees and so with ryots. The village bunnia craftier than the town bunnia will sell the ryot out and the old peasantry of the soil will disappear. If Government has really any money to spare at this time for the good of the landlords and ryots, I would beg most respectfully to suggest that measures be adopted to preserve old families of zemindars from ruin and as a measure calculated to afford relief to ryots whose amelioration it is the humane object of Government to achieve, agricultural banks in the muffusil like the Monts-de-pieta of France should be started. Incalculable good will be done to the ryots if money is advanced to them on low rates of interest instead of the 24 per cent. and 36 per cent. which they now pay to the village *Bunnia*. It is a known fact that for generations together these poor ryots can never get out of the books of the village *Bunnia*. A scheme to carry out the system of agricultural banks can easily be drawn out to be worked through the agency of the District Boards. On these grounds Government ought to be implored to withdraw its sanction to the commencement of the survey and settlement proceedings in Behar.

Gentlemen, I have heard some of you say that the Government of Bengal having without letting the persons interested know obtained the sanction of the Government of India and of the Secretary of State, is determined to proceed with the survey and will not give any heed to our representation. I must tell you that you are entirely mistaken. We have in Sir Charles Elliott a very just Lieutenant-Governor. If a good case is made out he is sure to listen to us and postpone the measure at least for some years if he be not inclined altogether to withdraw it. Then we have Lord Lansdowne as our Viceroy, a statesman of great experience and soundness of judgment and of wide sympathies with the people of India over whom he rules. Such being the case we need not despair of obtaining just consideration at his hands if he is convinced of the strength and justice of our case.

Gentlemen, justice is the key-stone of the British Government and you may depend upon it that justice will be done to you if you have a righteous cause. None of us need be under any apprehension of incurring the displeasure of the officials for none wish more than they to know the opinions and feelings of people interested in any measure which the Government is going to introduce. It will be an insult to their sense of justice to think otherwise.

I have detained you too long and must now sit down to make room for other eloquent and learned speakers who are to follow me. I beg therefore to support the first resolution which has been so ably moved by Maharaja Sir Narendra Krishna Bahadur and seconded by Moulvi Mohammed Yasoof Khan Bahadur and which runs as follows: "That in the opinion of this Meeting the Cadastral Survey of Behar recently ordered by the Governmet of Bengal will prove disastrous in its effects to both landlords and tenants in the Province, and is calculated to seriously disturb the peaceful relations which which exist between them at presest". The Resolution was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Maharajah Durga Churn Law, C. I. E. in moving the second resoluion, which ran thus:—That a Represention be submitted to Government respectfully showing the evil consequences which are likely to result from the proposed Survey operation as well as from the preparation of a Record of Rights, and humbly praying that the recent orders in connection therwith be withdrawn, especially in view of the general scarcity with which the Province is threatened,"—said:—

The speech you have just heard is so full and to the point that there remains but little for me to add, without having to repeat most of what has already been so well said. It is difficult to understand why the Government is so very pressing in the matter of a Cadastral survey when the principal parties concerned in the affair, namely landlords and ryots are both strongly opposed to the measure. It is said that their interests will be promoted by it. But in what manner such a result would be achieved they fail to perceive. The landed proprietors cannot be so blind as not to be able to recognise their own advantages. Their experience leads them more to look to the other side of the picture and they feel keenly the defficulties which surround the question. The trouble and annoyance as well as the endless litigation which is sure to ensue will outweigh any trifling advantage which might be expected from the measure. The result to my mind will be a serious disturbance of the harmony among the landed classes which exists at present. It is no wonder therefore that there should be a wide-spread alarm among them. When the chief parties concerned, as I have already mentioned, do not want a measure of this kind, there is no reason why it should be forced upon them. If, however, Government presses the matter for purposes of its own, then it is quite clear that Government should pay all the expense attending the operations, and no attempt should be made to saddle landlords and tenants with it. There is another circumstance which perhaps is not generally known to you; it appears that Behar is not the only part of the Province which will be affected by the orders issued by Government. From the information which has reached me I find that survey operations have already commenced in a certain permanently settled estate in Orissa and it is quite possible that such operations are going on in other permanently settled estates as well. Thus the mischief that is apprehended in Behar, and to avert which we have met here to-day, has already taken effect in Orissa. The survey operations, it will thus be seen have been undertaken in Orissa, in spite of the present miserable condition of the ryots on account of the late Cyclone which passed over the land—and this has been done notwithstanding, from every enquiry that has been made, no trace could be found of any Government order authorissng such operations in that part of the Province. I hope that the proceedings of this meeting will merit the attention of his Honor the Lieutenent-Governor so as to induce him to reconsider the position taken by Government. With this view a respectful representation should be submitted to his Honor, and let us earnestly trust that this may have the effect of persuading the Government to withdraw its orders. Having nothing further to say I have much pleasure in moving the Resolution which has been placed in my hands.

Raja Peary Mohun Mookerjee seconded the resolution, and in doing so said:—I beg to second the proposition. From the history of the measure which his Honor the Lieutenant-Governor has given to the public, there cannot be the slightest doubt that the measure has been resolved upon after much anxious consideration and after Government have satisfied themselves by the experimental survey of portion of Mozuffurpur that the proposed survey and record of rights would benefit both landholders and ryots. In the face of this dertermination deliberately come to, and of the sanction which the measure has received from the Government of India and the Secretary of State, we shall have to fight a lost battle if we go up to Government with a representation praying that the orders for the survey of the four districts of Behar be cancelled. I am nevertheless strong in the opinion that such a representotion should be made. All that has been ordered to be immediately done is a tranverse or skeleton survey of the districts at the public expense. The cadastral survey and record of rights won't be taken in hand till November next. We have therefore nearly a year before us to show that the orders of Government are based simply on official data; that the parties most concerned in the matter have neither been consulted nor allowed an opportunity to submit their views on the subject, and that whereas the public are allowed to have their say before any measure of taxation is introduced, here is a measure involving heavy taxation which has come as a thunderbolt, all of a sudden, upon landholders and ryots. The nobleman and gentleman who have spoken before me have dwelt on the ruinous expenditure and the crop of lawsuits which the proposed cadastral survey involves. But what appears to me the most telling argument against the measure is that after ill shat expenditure and trouble has been undergone, the result will be far from adequate to the sacrifice which we are required to make. A complete record of the respective rights and delegations of landholders and ryots in respect of all the tenures and holdings in a district is no doubt a very desirable thing, but those acquainted with our rural economy should at once see that such a record would be practically valueless in this country unless it is annually corrected. The changes which are constantly occurring in the ownership and occupancy of land by transfers, relinquishments, inheritance, and by decrees of Courts are enormous. You will have some idea of the extent of these changes if you examine the figures regarding any one of these causes. You will find that in a single year, 1889-90 the number of sales and exchanges registered in these Provinces amounted to 206,703, and the number of permanent leases granted amounted to 76,390. You will see therefore that taking into account all the causes which contribute to changes of ownership and occupation of land, and to the creation of new rights, the record of rights, to be at all useful, would require correction every year in several hundreds of thousands different particulars. I think all these facts and arguments should be respectfully submitted to Government and that his Honor the Lieutenant-Governor should be prayed to reconsider the whole question.

The resolution, which was supported by Rai Taj Naryan Singh Bahadur of Bhagulpore, was carried unanimously.

The third resolution was to this effect:—"That the Committee of the British Indian Association be requested to draw up the representation for submission to Government and to do all other acts which may be necessary in connection therewith." It was proposed by Babu Saligram Singh, seconded by Babu Ugra Mohun Tagore, and supported by Syed Delawar Reza, and was carried unanimously.

Before the proceedings of the meeting were brought to a close, Maharaj Kumar Benoy Krishna proposed a vote of thaks to the chair and said:—

I rise to do a very pleasant duty, and that is to propose a vote of thanks to the chair, but one thing that strikes me most forcibly is the manner in which our distinguished chairman has conducted the proceedings of the meeting to-day. He has placed completely at the hands of the Bengal Zemindars the case of the Behar landholders in the full hope that the leaders of the British Indian Association will do all they can to lay the case before the Government. This is very gratifying and I am sure the Committee of our Association will justify the confidence reposed in them With these few observations I beg to move a vote of thanks to the chair.

The proposal was seconded by Babu Damodardas Barman.

The proceedings then came to a close.

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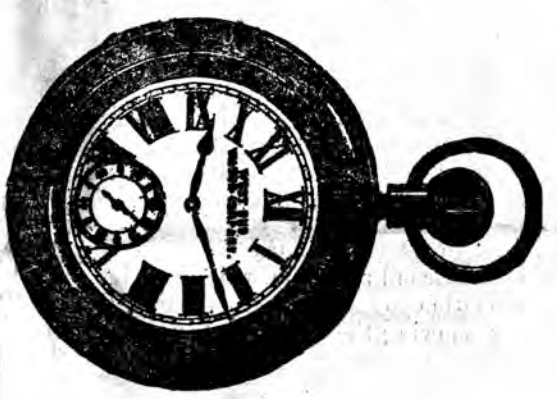

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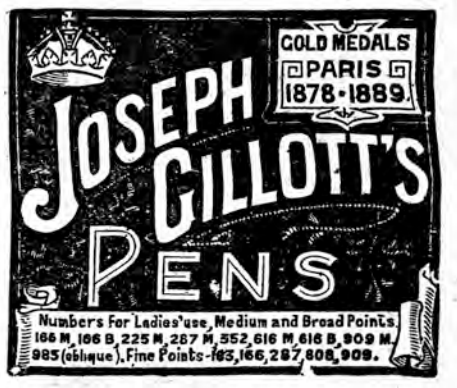
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